AN

ANSWER

TO

DOCTOR KINGLAKE;

SHOWING

The Danger

OF

HIS COOLING TREATMENT

OF

THE GOUT.

BY JOHN RING,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London, and of the Medical Societies of London and Paris.

Stulti, dum vitant vitia, in contraria currunt.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR J. CALLOW, MEDICAL BOOKSELLER,
CROWN COURT, SOHO.

1816.

S. Gosnell, Printer, Little Queen Street, London.

CONTENTS.

Case of Mr. Baker, p. 35; Mrs. Cummins, p. 21; Dr. Curry, p. 31; Mr. Kinder, p. 35; Sir M. Le Fleming, p. 21; Mr. Mace, p. 139; Mr. Naish, p. 23; Miss Needham, p. 26; Mr. Nicholson, p. 161; Mr. Parkinson, p. 14; the Rev. Mr. Smith, p. 129. Case at Langport, p. 145.

Cases related by Sir W. Adams, p. 165; Ætius, p. 96; Dr. Bain, p. 149; Barthez, p. 76; Mr. Cordell, p. 159; Mr. Edlin, p. 14, 133; Dr. Gower, p. 35; Hoffman and Dr. Young, p. 7; Dr. Hooper, p. 148; Cases in the Medical Journal, p. 140, 141; by Musgrave, p. 6; Mr. O'Neal, p. 131; Dr. Parry, p. 149, 150; Sir W. Pole, p. 21; Mr. Pope, p. 137; Mr. Smith, p. 142; Dr. James Sims, p. 161; Dr. Trotter, p. 126.

Opinion of Ætius, p. 96; Dr. Baillie, p. 135; Dr. Bain, p. 149; Barthez, p. 76; Sir G. Blane, p. 32; Cadogan, p. 86; Caverhill, p. 86; Celsus, p. 100; Dr. Cooke, p. 135; Cullen, p. 79; Dr. Curry, p. 31; Darwin, p. 10, 85; Dr. Duncan, p. 85; Dr. Duncan, jun. p. 85; Dr. Gregory, p. 71; Dr. Gregory, jun. p. 116; Dr. Haworth, p. 135; Heberden, p. 10; Dr. La-

tham, p. 135; *Leroy, p.* 27; *Mr. Mantal, p.* 129; *Mead, p.* 87; *Editors of the Medical Journal, p.* 129; *of the Medico-Chirurgical Journal, p.* 150; *Mr. Moore, p.* 129; *Musgrave, p.* 89; *Oribasius, p.* 8; *Mr. Parkinson, p.* 14; *Rush, p.* 54; *Dr. Saunders, p.* 30; *Dr. James Sims, p.* 161; *Dr. John Sims, p.* 24; *Mr. Smith, p.* 142; *Sydenham, p.* 76; *Mr. Thomas, p.* 42; *Dr. Trotter, p.* 126.

AN

ANSWER,

&c.

In the Medical Journal for July, 1815, Dr. Kinglake informs us, that he had lately observed a patient silence, with regard to this subject; that when he published his opinion of the validity of the principle of the cooling treatment of the Gout, it savoured, in the estimation of some persons, not a little of presumption; and was, in some instances, actually treated with unsparing harshness of censure.

He tells us, that bad reasoning, and low calumny, were opposed to his pretensions; and that this bad reasoning, and low calumny, have been fully exposed, and answered, in a work entitled, "Reviewers Reviewed;" but unfortunately for his cre-

dit, and that of his cooling treatment, he immediately betrays the secret, that this book is not yet published. He tells us, indeed, that if the practical interests of the subject should still require its publication, it will not be much longer withheld. *Parturiunt montes.*

He talks about absurd prognostics uttered against the practice by pseudo-critics, by the prejudiced, the timid, the garrulous, and the vulgar; and then justly remarks, that if the experience of others has been different from his, the public should be made acquainted with it.

He observes, that the prurient disposition shown, to disparage and cry down the practice, would have been lynx-eyed in spying grounds for impeaching it; but that it has not lately been assailed; he therefore thinks it just to infer, that it cannot. In this persuasion, he tells us, he shall rest satisfied that the practice has maintained, and will maintain, its full claim to public adoption and confidence; and that he shall ever challenge, or rather entreat, those who think differently, those who would willingly controvert the principles on which it is

founded, to do so at any time, in a way that may merit attention.

Thus challenged, and thus entreated, it would be equally cruel and pusillanimous, not to controvert the principles, not to refute the misrepresentations, not to humble the pride, and not to chastise the arrogance, of this rash practitioner, and bold pretender; who is extremely fond of writing on subjects which he does not understand.

Among others, he has lately written on the subject of vaccination; and, as usual, betrays his ignorance, by recommending that we should seek for fresh matter from the cow; when it is well known to those who are conversant with the practice, that what is in constant use has not degenerated, and that vaccination was never more successful than at the present time.

When he pretends that his doctrine has not lately been assailed, it is impossible to reconcile his assertion to truth; for he must know, or ought to have known, that it was assailed in my Treatise on the Gout; one of the latest and principal publications, and probably the principal publication that has ever appeared on that subject.

It is the less likely that such a publication should have escaped his notice, when we recollect, that it was largely reviewed, and quoted, by medical and other Reviewers; who particularly alluded to the pointed manner, in which I had condemned the practice of Dr. Kinglake.

The Doctor tells us, that his cooling treatment of the gout will, no doubt, at all times be enabled to show a fearless front against all speculatists, declaimers, calumniators, and false critics. *No doubt!* No doubt, the author of these observations is one of those speculators, declaimers, calumniators, and false critics, against whom this brutum fulmen is hurled. He may, however, truly say with Sydenham,

> Non mihi, sed rationi, aut quod ratio esse videtur,
> Milito, securus quid mordicus hic tenet, aut hic.

Let Dr. Kinglake rail as long as he pleases; but should I ever be so unfortunate as to be tormented with the gout, I would rather endure that torment, or even put myself under the care of Dr. Reece, and take his gout cordials, or the saturnine poison which he so liberally recommends as

a panacea, than follow the advice of so rash and indiscreet a practitioner as Dr. Kinglake, and plunge a gouty limb into cold water.

Had the Doctor, in conjunction with all the rational part of the faculty, been content with treading in the steps of Sydenham, and gradually exploded the heating plan, without going into the contrary extreme, he would have merited applause; but he wishes us to run on Scylla in order to avoid Charybdis; and records the names of those who have escaped the peril into which he brought them, without mentioning the names of those who perished in the wreck.

This ungrateful task he leaves for others; trumpeting his own praise in our Medical Journals; and artfully concealing what is published in opposition to his plan.

Were I to seek for other cases, in addition to those which are here related, I have no doubt that they might easily have been found; but having already brought forward, in my Treatise on the Gout, sufficient evidence to establish the principle, that there is great danger in the refrigerant mode of treatment recommended by Dr. Kinglake, I con-

ceive it a duty to republish it separately, that it may be more generally perused by those who are interested in the question.

Any one of the cases, which are now added, would alone be sufficient to deter a rational person from the practice; for, it ought to be recollected, that the gout is so far from being an incurable, or intractable disease, that it may well be doubted, whether there is any one that is, in general, more easily remedied, if the patient will submit to proper regulations and restraint.

Ætius long ago complained, that some practitioners do mischief by applying remedies for the gout which are *too cooling*.

Musgrave reprobates the officious interference of those *meddling quacks*, who plunge the affected limb into cold water, to ease the pain; declaring that they kill *numbers* of gouty people by such repellents.

He once more condemns the practice of repelling the gout by cold applications, and plunging the diseased limb into cold water, though sanctioned by the Greeks and Romans; since, although many people have been cured by that method, *others have fallen victims to it*. He asserts, that it has

frequently been followed by a series of *inexpressible sufferings;* and even by *death.*

One instance, in which this plan of treatment proved fatal, is mentioned by Hoffman; and alluded to by Dr. Young, in his Medical Literature.

In my Treatise I remarked, that when Dr. Cadogan boasts of his performance, like Kinglake and Brown, it is probably only to prevent his readers from noticing his plagiarisms, or suspecting the theft.

Dr. Kinglake's book appeared in 1804. It is entitled, "A Dissertation on the Gout; exhibiting a *new* View of the Origin, Nature, Cause, Cure, and Prevention, of that afflicting Disease."

Quid dignum tanto feret hic promissor hiatu?

In fact, it is difficult to discover any thing *new* in this publication; except a *new* endeavour ad captandum vulgus; and a *new* attempt to persuade the public, that nothing rational had ever been written on the subject till he took up his pen. This is what Brown and Cadogan had before done.

He pretends, that the gout has hitherto baffled every curative effort of the medical

art; and that it has universally been deemed salutary, or incurable; but this is so far from being true, as my Treatise abundantly proves, that such assertions can only proceed from gross ignorance, or wilful misrepresentation.

He affects to fear a vast deal of obloquy, on account of his setting himself up as a corrector of the errors of science, as well as of vulgar notions and popular prejudice; and makes a great merit of trying to establish the truth of positions, which were very well established before he took up his pen. One of them is, that the gout differs in no essential circumstance from common inflammation; another, that its genuine seat is in the ligaments and tendons; and another, that it is never salutary, and ought not to be encouraged, nor even tolerated. By referring to Oribasius, Heberden, Cullen, Darwin, and Rush, it will be seen, that neither of these opinions is new; and that neither of them originated with Dr. Kinglake.

He professes "an indifference for individual and academic authority;" and a confidence that his doctrine, however it may be assailed from all quarters, on account of its

originality, will stand secure. He even flatters himself, that the statement of facts, brought forward in his ephemeral production, "will endure as long as the present economy of the universe, or the elements of nature."

It is, therefore, greatly to be regretted, that his book is not written in more intelligible language. He has given an explanation of the words ligament and tendon; and it is hoped, in his next edition, he will also favour us with an explanation of the following expressions, which with others equally mysterious and unintelligible, occur in the course of his lucubration: "motive susceptibility," "motive conditions," "combustible state of vital motion," "admissible significancy," "annihilating distribution of inflammatory gout," and "morbid agitation of irritative and sentient powers."

> Such pompous nothings, in so strange a style,
> Amuse th' unlearn'd, and make the learned smile.

He gravely tells us, that when the formality of science decrees, and popular assent adopts, an incorrect notion of disease, it requires a "more than common effort of in-

tellect," to canvass its merits, and expose its defects. We ought, therefore, to congratulate ourselves, that this arduous task has devolved on so able a man as Dr. Kinglake. He also, as well as Cadogan and Brown, pretends to greater independence of mind, than what falls to the lot of other physicians, and ordinary mortals.

He insinuates that, to the disgrace of medical science, the humoural pathology, and the fashion of treating the gout with patience, flannel, and sedulous stimulation, still prevail; though it is well known they are expressly disavowed by the most eminent modern physicians, particularly by Cullen, Heberden, Darwin, and Rush. He even goes so far as to affirm, that the amount of all the speculations of the ancients and moderns is, that indigestion proceeds from the gout; and that it is salutary to expel this disease to the joints. This is letting down the luminaries of the healing art, both ancient and modern, very low indeed; it is, therefore, only justice, to vindicate their characters from that foul and unmerited aspersion.

It is true, in his fulsome dedication to

the Duke of Portland, he acknowledges his Grace's "intelligent readiness" to be convinced by proper evidence; but as to medical practitioners, he thinks them dull of apprehension, because they are unable to discover any utility in his plan, or any sense in his lucubrations.

He is rather singular in maintaining, that the gout has its station exclusively in the ligaments and tendons, or, as he expresses it, in the ligamentous and tendinous structure; and in denying that it may also affect the cellular membrane and the skin. He is also singular, in denominating every sprain of a ligament, or tendon, the gout. According to this maxim, the gout often occurs in the young as well as the old, and may even happen to a child in the birth.

He is inconsistent with himself when he admits, that the gout may be extended to the muscles; and too cynical and dogmatic, when he ridicules the terms rheumatism, and rheumatic gout, as puerilities unworthy of an enlightened age. While such incongruities appear in print, and are widely circulated, we must agree with him, that the Augean stable of medical errors will not be speedily cleansed.

He is so ill-informed as to suppose, that arthritic concretions are of a calculous nature; and that they are composed of phosphoric acid and lime, brought back from the bone by the exhalant vessels of the periosteum of the joint. He also talks of calcareous matter, and osseous secretion; but he should talk less about "hackneyed nonsense, and errors of reason, which debase humanity below the brute creation!"

His *new* method of cure, on which he plumes himself so highly, is as old as Hippocrates; and neither more nor less than constantly drenching his patient with cold water, both within and without; and in all respects, except the two principal, bleeding and cathartics, pursuing the antiphlogistic plan. His remedy differs very little from that of Dr. San Grado. He recommends occasional laxatives, light bedclothes, a room without fire, and ventilation. He also recommends abstinence. By this method, it is not improbable he may cure his patient of the gout; or starve him to death.

He tells us, it has hitherto been the custom to attempt the cure of the gout by heat; but he thinks it much better, to do just the

reverse, and to dissipate the inflammation with all possible dispatch, by means of cold.

Stulti dum vitant vitia, in contraria currunt.

Some strictures on his publication appeared in the Medical Journal, under the signature of "A Constant Reader." In the first, the author denied the novelty of the remedy; and in a subsequent number of the Journal, Dr. Kinglake declares it had never been his object to assume credit on that account; which is a little remarkable, after all his boasting of a new method of cure; and pretending that no one else had ever written on the subject in a rational way, or treated the complaint in a proper manner.

He allows that Hippocrates had written about distempered heat; but, though he quotes the letter which contains the very passage, he affects not to know, that Hippocrates recommended the copious affusion of cold water in the gout.

He also quotes another passage, in A Constant Reader's letter, in which he alludes to a work of Vander Heyden, on the surprising effects of cold water, in easing the pains of the gout. He also, as well as Dr.

Kinglake, laid claim to the discovery of the use of cold water in the gout.

The same author refers to Smith's Curiosities of common Water, and to Rigby on Animal Heat; in both of which, as well as in the sixth volume of the Medical Observations, the local application of cold water in the gout is much extolled. The Constant Reader, therefore, severely reproves Dr. Kinglake for his arrogance, in pretending to originality on this occasion; a claim rather to be expected from Dr. Solomon or Dr. Brodum, than from a learned physician, or an intelligent man.

Other opponents to Dr. Kinglake's unqualified recommendation of this refrigerant plan, have appeared in the medical journals; and express answers to it from the pens of Mr. Edlin of Uxbridge, and Mr. Parkinson of Hoxton. The former stated two cases, in which it appeared to prove fatal; the latter also thought he saw sufficient reason to condemn the practice.

Dr. Kinglake might have saved himself the trouble of coming forward to correct the errors of science, particularly the humoural pathology; for Mr. Parkinson, who

tries to revive it, as coinciding with his own hypothesis, observes, that when he reflects on the strong opposition to this doctrine by Cullen, and considers, that the notion of the gout depending on a morbific matter, is almost universally rejected, he hesitates at advancing a theory, which will prove so repugnant to general opinion.

His theory is, that the gout proceeds from a saline acrimony existing in the blood, in such a proportion as to irritate, and excite to morbid action, the minute terminations of the arteries, in certain parts of the body. He candidly confesses, that the humoural pathology of disease, in general, having yielded to the numerous and powerful arguments with which it has been opposed, it is not with the expectation of a prompt and implicit adoption, that he offers this conjecture respecting the proximate cause of the disease.

He acknowledges, that not only no evidence has hitherto been adduced, but that none is likely to be adduced, to show in what state, or in what stage of combination, the principles of the lithic, or uric acid, exist in the blood; that, in order to have

the least chance of success in such an inquiry, a series of experiments on the blood of healthy, as well as on that of gouty people, would be requisite; and that, even if these experiments were performed with all due accuracy, positive information would scarcely be obtained.

He thinks it probable, that the uric acid would not be found to exist, formally, in the blood of arthritic subjects; but that a superabundance of the acid principle might be detected there. He quotes Huxham, to prove that the cider-drinkers in Devonshire are peculiarly liable to the gout.

He considers the phenomena of the gout as chiefly owing to inflammation, in opposition to the hypothesis of Dr. Latham, that there is no inflammation in the disorder. He also draws a distinction between the acute rheumatism and the gout, in opposition to the hypothesis of Dr. Kinglake; who thinks it a puerile and silly task. He observes, that the acute, or inflammatory rheumatism, is generally accompanied with a greater degree of fever than the gout; that it commonly appears early in life; and, even at its commencement, attacks several joints at once,

a circumstance which very seldom happens in the gout.

He then proceeds to offer some remarks on Dr. Kinglake's practice, the application of cold water; which he considers to be fraught with the greatest danger, as tending to cause the retrocession of the gout. He thinks Dr. Kinglake has not examined the doctrines of the highest authorities in the healing art with sufficient attention, to justify him in speaking contemptuously of their opinions; and in confounding with popular prejudice, what has received the most solemn sanction of medical erudition.

He observes, that the most celebrated writers on the gout, have particularly noticed its disposition, when suddenly suspended in the part which it first attacks, to affect some vital organ; and regarded this retrocession of the disease, as a circumstance highly to be dreaded. He also observes, that every practitioner, of the least experience, must have seen, and seen with alarm, patients labouring under that agonizing complaint, the gout in the stomach; in which the pale and shrunk countenance, and anxiety of the præcordia, portend the most imminent danger.

This alarm, and this danger, as Mr. Parkinson remarks, would never be suspected by any one, who relies on Dr. Kinglake's account of that affection. An uninformed reader, perusing his account, would suppose he was treating of some complaint without pain; and attended with little inconvenience, except indigestion. He even specifically states, that an ailment of the stomach may continue to prevail after the extinction of gouty pain; and, as Mr. Parkinson observes, nothing in this account can lead to the necessary caution, and just alarm, which such a case ought to excite.

No mention is made of the anxiety, sickness, and violent pain, spoken of by Cullen; nor of its being one of those symptoms, which are considered as placing the life of the patient in danger; but, on the contrary, neither pain, nor danger, is once mentioned. This affection is given by Dr. Kinglake, as an instance of retrocedent gout, no others being mentioned by him; and it is described in such mild terms, that even if it were probable it would be produced by the immersion which he recommends, it would ap-

pear to those who derive all their knowledge from his account, too insignificant to deter them from the practice.

Instead, however, of being so trivial a complaint, it is, as Mr. Parkinson remarks, one that requires the utmost skill. Sometimes it is an inflammation of the stomach; sometimes a spasmodic affection; and sometimes the iliac passion. Mr. Parkinson, therefore, thinks, that although Dr. Kinglake has recommended the cooling plan, not doubting its efficacy, or its safety in every case, it is so dangerous as not to be justifiable, either in the inflammatory rheumatism, or in the gout; since ill effects have often arisen from the practice, at a distant period of time.

Mr. Parkinson adduces several instances, in which the gout in the extremities was cured by repellents; but, as he remarks, instead of being eradicated, it soon brought on such evils as experience would lead us to expect. In the first case, it fell on the head, and caused excruciating pain; in the second, on the mediastinum; and in the third, on the head and heart, followed by death. In

the fourth case, it fell on the spine, and all the limbs; occasioning concretions, and, for a time, rendered the patient a cripple.

The last appears to have been Mr. Parkinson's own case; and was the more distressing, on account of his not being able to derive the full advantage from leeches, owing to the degree of inflammation which they produced. The same circumstance has been remarked in some instances, by other practitioners; particularly by Dr. Haygarth.

Mr. Parkinson concludes with observing, that what Dr. Kinglake represents as light and insignificant, is, in reality, a serious concern; that his practice of extinguishing the gouty inflammation by cold water is extremely dangerous, and highly reprehensible; and that when the disease is repelled from any of the extremities, it falls on others, or on parts which are still more essential to the preservation of life.

In the same publication I also observed, that the Eau Medicinale, though hazardous, appeared to me to be a much safer remedy than that which had in a great measure fallen into disuse, but was revived by Dr. King-

lake. Even then, one death, and other ill consequences, had been occasioned by the Eau Medicinale, and were noticed in my publication. When, therefore, I represented Dr. Kinglake's cooling plan of treatment as still more dangerous, it is rather surprising how he can pretend that it has not lately been assailed.

In confirmation of my opinion, I related the case of the late Sir Michael Le Fleming; who, whenever he was attacked with a fit of the gout, used constantly to put his feet into cold water before he went to bed. This he practised the night before his decease; which suddenly took place at the Admiralty, while Lord Howick, now Earl Grey, presided over that department.

Sir William Pole, Bart. informs me, that he some years ago conversed with a fisherman of Teignmouth, who used to have recourse to this remedy whenever he was attacked with the gout. He is since dead; and his death is ascribed to that rash and indiscreet practice.

Mrs. Cummins, of New Street, Hanover Square, sixty years of age, had the gout

eight years ago. It lasted three weeks. She afterwards generally had a fit of it every year. Three years ago, when attacked with the disorder, she plunged her feet into cold water; then went to bed, and applied cold napkins to the parts affected.

About one or two o'clock, she was awaked by a very violent pain in her stomach; that of her feet was abated. She then took a spoonful of brandy; which gradually removed the pain of her stomach. It then, for the first time, attacked her knees and elbows; and continued stationary six weeks; which is much longer than it had lasted on any former occasion. Since that time, she has frequently had the complaint in her hands, feet, knees, and elbows; and her constitution is much impaired.

The name of the author who preceded Dr. Kinglake, in reviving the refrigerant plan, is Herman Vander Heyden, a physician of Ghent; who had practised in Flanders upwards of fifty-two years. His book is entitled Speedy Help for Rich and Poor; and was published in 1749.

He prescribes cold bathing in the gout; and also cold water as a beverage. At the

same time he recommends bleeding and cathartics, in those cases, where indications of the necessity of such remedies appear. He candidly acknowledges, that the liberal affusion of cold water was recommended by Hippocrates and Celsus; and does not arrogate to himself any particular credit, on the score of novelty, as Dr. Kinglake has done. He is much more modest in his pretensions than Dr. Kinglake; and, though he preceded him in his publication a century and a half, he has exhibited much greater proofs of professional skill.

The following case occurred to a relation of my own, probably long before Dr. Kinglake was born; and was communicated to me by his daughter, Mrs. Butler, of Pickett Street, near Temple Bar; who has often heard it related by her mother.

The late Mr. Naish, of Bath, having the gout very severely in his feet, which were at that time much swollen, and in violent pain, was tempted to try the effects of cold water in his disorder. He plunged his feet into the river, which runs at the bottom of the garden; suffering them to remain in the

water, till the pain was assuaged. The consequence was, that the complaint left his feet, and attacked his stomach, which it had never done before; and he was so ill, that it was thought impossible he could live till the morning.

He was then only thirty years of age; and from that period continued to be troubled with frequent attacks of the same kind. Such occurrences are so natural, and so common, that I should not deem them worthy of being recorded, did not Dr. Kinglake defy us to produce them.

Dr. John Sims, in his Inaugural Dissertation, published at Edinburgh in 1774, after alluding to the ill effect of cold bathing, when the body is in a state of perspiration, says, the same ill effect of cold is sometimes observable, when it is only applied to a part of the body; and hence it may also take place from drinking cold water.

In reply to this, and to all that can be urged against his practice, Dr. Kinglake may contend, as he has already contended, that he has fully answered and exposed all such objections, in his work which has now been ready for the press seven years. This re-

minds us of the conduct of Comenius; who printed a book, containing the insane predictions of Drabicius, and other enthusiasts, but did not distribute the copies. He therefore called the work *Lux in Tenebris.*

Such, in all probability, is the unpublished lucubration of Dr. Kinglake. It is a Lux in Tenebris.

> 'T is a dark lantern of the Spirit,
> Which none see by but those who bear it;
> An ignis fatuus, that bewitches,
> And leads men into pools and ditches,
> To make them dip themselves, and sound
> For ease and health, in dirty pond;
> To dive, like wildfowl, for salvation,
> And fish to catch regeneration.

If the Doctor has any light to diffuse, let him not keep it hidden under a bushel. If he has any talents to display, let him not keep them folded up in a napkin. Let him not feed us with empty hopes; nor tantalize us with vain expectations. Let him not tire us with his assertions; nor disgust us with his ostentation; nor sicken us with his trash.

He writes on a variety of subjects, vaccination, canine madness, and pulmonary

consumption; making it a question how far the last is infectious. He proposes to inquire into the different conditions of morbid and infectious matter. On these topics it is not easy to discover that he has said any thing new or useful.

The following case, which was this day communicated to me, furnishes an additional proof of the frequent ill effects of his rash and inconsiderate plan.

Miss Needham, No. 39, Warwick Street, Golden Square, forty-five years of age, has been afflicted with the gout in her feet and hands two or three years. About six months ago, when the pain in her hands was violent, she plunged them into a bason of cold water, and held them there some time; the consequence of which was a violent pain in her stomach. This process she has repeated about a dozen times; and always with a similar result.

The pain in her stomach sometimes lasted an hour, and sometimes the whole day. She had occasionally been troubled with it before; but never in so violent a degree. She found some relief from Ginger Tea; which I had previously recommended

to her, as more innocent than the remedies to which she had been accustomed.

These are stubborn facts; but Dr. Kinglake will probably call them, like every thing else that has appeared against him, bad reason, and low calumny; and tell us, that they have long since been exposed and answered, in his work which has not yet seen the light. He informs us, indeed, that this work has been fit for the press these seven years; but many people are doubtful, whether it is yet fit; and whether any thing written by Dr. Kinglake ever was, or ever will be, fit for the press.

Alphonse Leroy relates a case, in which the application of snow-water in the gout, by means of compresses, brought on phthisis trachealis, and death.

Let any one judge, how far Dr. Kinglake's Dissertation on the subject, in two volumes, published in 1804, or his other work, entitled "Additional Cases of Gout," published in 1807, in both of which he contends for the safety of his cooling treatment, was fit for the press. He pretends, indeed, that he has furnished the public with ample evidence, on which they may reason and conclude;

but the preceding pages afford ample proof, that it is necessary to hear the evidence on the other side of the question also, before any final judgment is formed; and before any rational conclusion, in favour of the Doctor's refrigerant plan, can be drawn.

One purpose, however, will no doubt be fully answered, by the Doctor's vain puffs, and empty boasts, in the Medical Journal, namely, that of an advertisement; but it will be fortunate if many wretched cripples, weeping widows, and hapless and unprovided orphans, do not rue the day, when his rash and empirical publication first saw the light. On this occasion, therefore, it is the duty of every one, who has seen sufficient of the practice of physic to know the dangerous tendency of his writings, to say *Caveat emptor.*

I recollect well having heard of a French charlatan; who, about fifty years ago, recommended Dr. Kinglake's plan, both in London, and at Bath; and the fatal effects of his project soon put an end to his rash and unwarrantable practice. It is probable, that my own relation, whose case is already recorded, and who had nearly fallen a victim

to the false promises of that bold and arrogant pretender, was one of those who were duped by him.

The most eminent physicians, in general, have long been cautious how they listen to the fallacies, promises, and misrepresentations of such ignorant and impudent empirics. Unlearned men, in all ages, have been ready to decide the question; and eager to adopt the practice;

> But fools rush in, where angels fear to tread.

In answer to letters of inquiry, I have been favoured with the opinions of some of the principal physicians in this metropolis, and its vicinity, on the subject; which I shall subjoin, in the order in which they were received.

Having written to Dr. Saunders, and Dr. Curry, I consider it as not a little flattering, that although I have scarcely the honour of being known to them, and although the former is in so infirm a state of health, as to be obliged to retire from the profession, and resides at Enfield, and the latter is just recovering from three weeks' torture of the

gout, I received a full and satisfactory answer from them both, on the next day.

Of the liberality of their conduct, on this occasion, I shall ever entertain a grateful remembrance. At the same time I am perfectly sensible, that nothing but their humanity, and their ardent zeal for the promotion of medical science, could have induced so ready a compliance with my request.

Dr. Saunders tells me, that he approves of the subject of my investigation; and Dr. Curry observes, that it is of vital importance, not only to arthritic patients, but also to every member of the medical profession, who values his own character, and has the good of the public sincerely at heart.

Dr. Saunders's opinion is so far in favour of the cooling treatment, that he has always removed the bedclothes and flannels from the parts affected; and exposed them to cold air. He also substitutes chicken-broth for turtle-soup; and water for wine.

He has never ventured to recommend the immersion of a gouty limb in cold water; which is a sufficient proof, if there were no other, that the evidence on record

against the practice, is more strong than that which is in its favour.

Dr. Curry is so decidedly hostile to the practice, that he has expressed his disapprobation of it in his lectures, for the last fifteen years; and is meditating remarks on the subject, to be published in the Transactions of one of the most respectable societies in this metropolis. He considers every instance adduced, of the success of Dr. Kinglake's cooling treatment, only as a fortunate escape.

His opinion is the result of considerable reading, and twenty-five years' attentive observation of the disease. He observes, that the danger of sudden and fatal translation of the disorder to the stomach, brain, heart, diaphragm, or other parts, from the repelling of gouty inflammation, is one which has been ascertained by many, many more examples, than have ever reached the public ear.

He himself has long been a great sufferer from the gout; and has had personal experience of what he emphatically calls, that infernal article, the Eau Medicinale; by twice taking of which, in small quanti-

ties, under circumstances of peculiar urgency and impatience, he has undergone unutterable torments for eighteen months; and is now only rallying his strength and spirits, in consequence of a good constitution, and a regular fit of the disease.

Dr. Baillie informs me, that he has never recommended cold applications to any joint affected with the gout; but has occasionally heard of the ill effects of that practice, in his intercourse with medical men.

Sir Gilbert Blane also informs me, that he has had no personal experience of the effects of cold water, externally applied, in the gout; but has received such testimony of its ill effects from others, as led him to think it an unsafe remedy.

In answer to such high and respectable authorities, Dr. Kinglake may quote his own words, and say, "When formality of science decrees, and popular assent adopts, an incorrect notion of diseases, a more than common effort of intellect, and a more than ordinary regard for independent reasoning, are necessary, freely to canvass its merits, and boldly to expose its defects."

And what is this more than common effort of intellect, which Dr. Kinglake has made? It is the following. "It is," says he, "one of the most provident conditions of animal life, that *morbid matter* is not a *transferable* evil." Happy would it be for mankind, if the Doctor's opinion were true! "The motive powers of organic structure," continues he, "effectually bar its diffusion in a material form. They are susceptible of being impressed by it, and morbidly agitated by its influence; but there the mischief stops; and, previously to its farther propagation, or systematic dissemination, it must assume the *motive form*, which vital action imparts to it."

"In this state," says he, "it assumes an identity with vital power; vitiating its excitability, and becoming subject to the same laws of *motive diffusion*."

This is, indeed, no common effort of intellect; and it requires no common effort of intellect, to understand what the Doctor means by *motive form*, and *motive diffusion*; or what could have been his *motive* for writing such an unintelligible jargon.

He is fond of fighting with a shadow,

and combating the humoural pathology; a doctrine, which, as Mr. Parkinson observes, is already exploded. That morbid matter is a transferable evil, even in a material form, is well known to all those, who understand the nature of the small-pox, and the venereal disease. It is, indeed, as transferable as landed property, or Bank stock; and much more transferable than the ideas of Dr. Kinglake.

His language resembles that of Hudibras:

> For, if he please to show 't, his speech
> In loftiness of sound is rich;
> A Babylonish dialect,
> Which learned pedants much affect.
> It is a party-colour'd dress
> Of patch'd and piebald languages.
> 'T is English cut on Greek and Latin,
> Like fustian heretofore on satin.
> It has an odd promiscuous tone,
> As if he talk'd three parts in one;
> Which makes some think, when he doth gabble,
> They hear three labourers of Babel;
> Or Cerberus himself pronounce
> A leash of languages at once.

When he maintains that the gout is occasioned by morbid action, and not by mor-

bid matter, few medical men of the present age will refuse their assent to his opinion; but the following case, in addition to others here related, proves how hazardous a plan of treatment he recommends, as one totally free from danger.

Mr. Kinder, No. 12, North Place, Gray's Inn Lane, had the gout in his foot. He applied cold vinegar and water to the part affected; in consequence of which, the pain soon left his foot, and attacked his head. He suffered much for the space of eight or ten hours; after which it returned to the part originally affected. This account I received from his own mouth, soon after I had published my former observations on the subject.

Dr. Gower informs me, that he has known two instances of the ill effects of cold water, externally applied, in the gout. In both cases the head was so much affected, that there was a total deprivation of sense, and of sight, for several hours; and it was only by means of powerful stimulants, frequently applied, that the patients at length recovered. Another eminent physician, whose name he mentioned, informed him,

that he had met with four instances of a similar kind.

One person, who told me he had communicated his case to Dr. Kinglake, as a proof of the safety and efficacy of his plan of treatment, lay insensible, and totally deprived of vision, many hours, in consequence of bathing his feet in cold water, and repelling the disorder to his head. This account I had from his own physician.

After reading these observations, it must appear rather surprising, that Dr. Kinglake could write with so much confidence in favour of his cooling plan. Resting on four cases, as if they were the writings of the four Evangelists, and he himself an oracle, he says, "this case (meaning the last) affords me an opportunity of remarking, with much satisfaction, the *perfect safety* of reducing the inflammatory temperature of a gouty affection, *even in the worst state of constitutional health.*"

A consumptive tendency, he adds, was strikingly evident, in the feebleness with which the ordinary functions of life were performed in this patient. Destitute of arterial tone, and muscular vigour, and with

that peculiarly dry and unyielding cough, which characterizes tubercular irritation, the re-active powers of the system were extremely weak; and must have been overwhelmed, if, according to popular prejudice, the sudden allaying of arthritic inflammation could ever be followed by a morbid transference of it to some vital part of the system.

"This idea," continues he, "is a mere *bugbear;* occasionally sanctioned even with the solemn gravity of *medical erudition;* which has served to alarm the prejudiced and the ignorant in every age, from remote antiquity; and to preclude the adoption of a rational mode of cure."

I have already conversed, and corresponded, with some of the most eminent physicians of this metropolis, on the subject of Dr. Kinglake's plan; but have not yet been able to find one bold enough to adopt the practice. Those who are frightened by a bugbear, and deterred from the adoption of a rational practice by a vain alarm, are the prejudiced and ignorant; consequently the most eminent physicians of the metropolis are prejudiced and ignorant. Such, at least,

they must appear to that great luminary of the healing art, Dr. Kinglake.

Such a judgment, coming from Taunton, or Taunton Dean, and pronounced on the brightest ornaments of the medical profession, by a man, of whom we know little but from his own pen, savours much more of arrogance and presumption, than of sound philosophy and *medical erudition.*

The Doctor, however, is so self-sufficient, so confident of the rectitude and infallibility of his own hypothesis, and has such an overweening conceit of his own judgment, as to maintain, that the reverse of the prevailing opinion is true. He declares it is not the early extinction of gouty inflammation, that endangers a retrocession of morbid influence on the system; but its being protracted on a part.

Many persons affirm, that gouty people lose their senses, and their sight, for a time at least, by the Doctor's cooling treatment; but others are inclined to believe, and, apparently, with much more reason, that they have lost their senses before they venture on such a rash and desperate remedy. *Quos Deus vult perdere prius dementat.*

After perusing the cases already recorded, Dr. Kinglake's extreme confidence, and unparalleled dogmatism, would excite a smile, were not the subject of so serious a nature, when he tells us, that his fifth case alone is *a decisive proof of perfect security*, in the cooling treatment of the gout, or any other inflammatory complaint.

The subject of this case had repeatedly suffered from the "refrigerating influence" of profuse perspiration; and was now doomed to suffer from the refrigerating influence of Dr. Kinglake's plan. His complaint was the rheumatism; and he was continually *soaked* in cold water, by the constant application of it to all the parts affected, in succession, for several weeks.

The Doctor fancies, that his cooling plan of treatment cures all whom it does not kill; and that there is no danger in his process, because it does not always prove fatal. By the same sort of reasoning, a sailor may pretend, that there is no danger in a storm, or a shipwreck, because he has been so fortunate as to escape with life; or a pickpocket, that there is no danger in being well ducked in a horsepond, because he has been so lucky as to survive the fury of the mob.

Dr. Kinglake relates another case; and then asserts, that his cooling plan of treatment is an infallible cure for the gout. He once more maintains, that there is no danger in the practice; that the contrary is a futile, untenable, and imaginary notion; that it is safe to relieve *pain*, and that *pain* constitutes the whole both of the present, and the future grievance.

This must be highly gratifying to those who labour under the gout, as it proves that pain is every thing; that debility, rigidity, congestion, concretion, and lameness, are nothing; and consequently, that you have nothing to do but to relieve pain.

The Doctor once more tells us, that "the topical application of cold water, duly conducted, is a remedy as *infallible* as *simple*." Simple, indeed! and nothing can be more simple, more unphilosophical, or more empirical, than to suppose, that there can be any one infallible remedy for any one disease, in every different sex, age, climate, and constitution.

It is the custom of all ignorant and impudent charlatans, from the days of Paracelsus to those of Dr. Gardener and Dr. Bro-

dum, to extol the virtues of their own panaceas, and to boast of their infallible cures; but it is the characteristic of rational and intelligent physicians to say with Ovid,

Et quoniam variant morbi, variabimus artes;
Mille mali facies, mille salutis erunt.

Dr. Kinglake is rather too sanguine, when, after the successful treatment of only four cases of the gout by the cooling method, he published the following observations on one of them, in the Medical Journal. "This case affords an instructive instance, *that whatever may be the degree of prevailing debility*, the existence of temperature, whether local, in the character of inflammatory affection, or general in the shape of febrile irritation, may be *safely* combated, by *rapid* and persevering reduction."

I have seldom known an eminent surgeon adopt Dr. Kinglake's plan. The following exception, however, has now come to my knowledge, among my correspondents; and I shall state the substance of his communication in his own words.

" MY DEAR SIR,

" In reply to your inquiries, respecting my observations on Dr. Kinglake's mode of treating the gout, I can assure you, that I have not hitherto remarked any ill effects, which could be justly ascribed to the practice he recommends; but the truth is, that *I seldom adopted it to the fullest extent, except in young and vigorous subjects;* and then I always began, by local bleeding with leeches in the inflamed parts.

" At present I am not much in the habit of advising the application of cold in these cases; as I find leeches, and the milder means, similar to those recommended in your Treatise, sufficient to answer all my views, without calling in the aid of Eau Medicinale, or any other *hazardous nostrum.*

" I remain, dear Sir,

" Yours very sincerely,

Leicester Place, " H. L. THOMAS."
4th Sept. 1815.

Sufficient evidence of the ill effects of the cooling treatment of this disorder, has been brought forward in the preceding

pages, to show the necessity of a little caution in this respect; and the temerity of Dr. Kinglake, in repeatedly challenging the opponents of the practice, to adduce a single instance, in which it has ever proved hurtful.

Two other respectable surgeons, Mr. Wadd and Mr. Leese, have had personal experience of it, and found it beneficial. Mr. Wadd had tried it, both on himself and on his patients, many years before it was proposed by Dr. Kinglake; and if Dr. Kinglake were satisfied with an acknowledgment of its efficacy, or even of its general utility, it would be very uncandid and illiberal to deny it that merit; but when he contends, again and again, for the safety of the practice, it is high time, fully to expose the fallacy of his reasoning, and to refute his assertions.

He appears to be totally insensible of the difficulty of the task he has undertaken. A thousand cases would not prove his practice to be safe; but a single one is sufficient to prove it unsafe; and, unfortunately, there are too many on record, to leave room for doubt in the mind of any rational man.

Those who recover, hang up their votive tablets at the shrine of Dr. Kinglake; but where are the votive tablets of those who perished?

He pretends, that the gout has *uniformly* been considered rather as a remedy for other diseases, than as a morbid affection. This reproach on the practitioners of physic can only proceed from gross ignorance, or wilful misrepresentation. In my Treatise on the Gout I proved, that a contrary opinion has prevailed among some of the most eminent physicians in all ages. The conduct of Dr. Kinglake therefore, on this occasion, cannot escape censure. It bears too much resemblance to that of an ignorant, illiterate, and impudent quack.

Not content with arrogating to himself, what is not his due, the introduction of the cooling plan of treatment in the gout, he also talks about extending his labours; and showing the salutary effect of cold water in fevers, and inflammatory complaints in general.

He speaks of this as an arduous undertaking, and one that cannot be satisfactorily accomplished in the present state of medical

science; yet what may we not expect, when such a man as he takes a pen in hand?

But, it seems, what we are so vain and foolish as to call learning, and philosophy, and medical science, is, in reality, nothing more than social refinement, and intellectual degeneracy; and the Doctor gravely informs us, that when these have retraced their course, and returned to the instinctive rectitude of common sense, that is, in plain English, when the world is grown wise again, then, and not till then, the virtue of cold water will be properly understood.

Thus it appears, that although cold water, in every shape, has long been used, and still continues to be used, in the cure of fevers, and other inflammatory complaints, and considered as one of the principal remedies in those complaints, by some of the most celebrated physicians and surgeons in the world, yet nothing is done, or likely to be done, till Dr. Kinglake throws down the gauntlet, and brandishes his grey goose quill.

This attempt, he assures us, it is his intention to make, however abortive it may

prove, and to wield a spear in the service of humanity. He even goes so far as to assert, that, " till this auspicious era shall arrive," when he shall be as strenuous a knight-errant for the virtue of cold water, as Gil Blas is for that of warm, " the savages, or rather *sages*, of America, will enjoy the exclusive advantage of that remedy, in the hot stage of such complaints."

He considers the savages of America as sages, and those savages of America consider the beavers of America as rational beings. This is confounding the reason of man, who was made in the image of God, with the blind instinct of the brute creation.

Such sages as Dr. Kinglake, would wish us to believe, that the instinct of savages is as infallible as the opinion of the Doctor himself, and can never err; and, from the hyperbolical compliment that is paid to those savages, as well as from the style in which it is expressed, we are led to suspect, that one of them took up the pen, and inserted it; for we can never suppose a man of liberal education to be quite so ignorant, or so malignant.

The cold bath, in every form, cold affusions, cold ablutions, and cold applications, are, and have long been, some of the most favourite and popular remedies, in almost all sorts of febrile and inflammatory complaints, except the gout; and even in that disease, the efficacy of the practice is acknowledged, but the safety of the practice is denied.

As to the savages, whom Dr. Kinglake calls sages, they are so accustomed to live in the water, that they may be considered as a sort of amphibious animals; and a very little reason is sufficient to teach them, that there is not much danger to be apprehended from such an experiment. A goose goes into water when he has a fever; yet nobody ever supposed that a *goose* was a *sage*; nobody ever supposed that a *goose* was a philosopher, or a *physician*. This would be almost as bad, as to suppose that a *physician* may be *a goose*.

Such an insinuation would be totally inconsistent with every idea of candour and liberality, were we not well acquainted with the publication of a physician, who hisses at all his fraternity, except a few partisans;

and cackles, to alarm that credulous animal John Bull; and to prevent him from placing confidence in any other oracle of physic.

Ignorant and illiterate as any author may be, and the press continually groans with the lucubrations of ignorant and illiterate authors, no one is so ignorant or illiterate as not to know, that England is the hotbed of empiricism; and of all the vilest medical impositions under the sun. Here they have free toleration, and a full scope. Here they have acts of grace, latent and *patent*. Here they are cherished, and nourished; and fostered with the perpetual sunshine of public favour.

The confidence with which the Doctor writes, is sure to produce conviction on the great vulgar and the small, and on a considerable portion of all ranks of society; in short, on every one, who is not conversant with medical science; the most difficult and abstruse of all human attainments.

That confidence, like Fame, at first showed some sign of modesty:

> Parva metu primo, mox sese attollit in auras,
> Ingrediturque solo, et caput inter nubila condit.

In his first communication on this complaint in the Medical Journal, dated Chilton super Polden, October 12th, 1801, he showed some sign of modesty. He there relates four cases; and justifies himself for having instituted an inquiry into the subject, and for making an attempt to cure the gout, as well as other inflammatory diseases, by cooling topical applications.

In the same Journal he published five cases, dated Taunton, December 22d, 1803. These, and one of them in particular, he considers nearly, if not perfectly decisive of the question. By the same sort of reasoning we might prove the safety of flannel in such complaints; the pernicious effect of which is now generally acknowledged by the most distinguished members of the medical profession.

To this latter article in the Journal, the Doctor subjoined an address to the faculty; in which he tells them, that the view of the nature and cure of the gout, which he had submitted to the public, was *original*, and his mode of treatment *new*. This provoked a reply from an unknown antagonist, under the signature of a Constant Reader; who

accuses the Doctor of arrogance and presumption, for announcing this remedy as a novelty originating with himself; and for so hastily claiming the applause due to a public benefactor.

In the same Journal for April, 1803, the Doctor repels the charge of Constant Reader with great indignation, and declares *it never had been his object, to assume credit either for originality or peculiarity, by the adoption of this plan; that it is impossible the principle of it should have escaped the earliest reasoning on the subject; and that it may, therefore, rather be considered as common to human intelligence.*

He farther adds, that *a similar doctrine pervades and constitutes the most intelligent and instructive parts of the writings of Hippocrates; and that the medical principles and practice of Sydenham also formed a transcendent epoch in the history of curative medicine.* He even goes so far as to tell us, that, "*happily for mankind, they finally overthrew the fatal delusions of humoural pathology, and alexipharmic jargon.*" Ex ore tuo te judicabo.

"*Conducted then by analogy,*" says the

Doctor, "*it occurred to me as highly reasonable, that gout, distinguished, like other inflammations, by excessive heat, and marked by no essential difference, might be subdued in a similar manner. This persuasion induced me to assimilate the treatment. Not a single fact had previously reached my knowledge, to authorize the trial.*"

He afterwards confesses, that the only claim to originality, which seemed to exist, in his case, and the only one which deserved a single moment's solicitude to establish, was that of publicly recommending the practice, after having experienced its salutary effects.

So much for Dr. Kinglake's merit as a discoverer; let us now examine his merit as a physician, and a faithful relater of opinions and facts.

When he tells us, in his preface, that the gout has hitherto baffled every curative effort of the healing art, it is evident, that he has never read the works of Hippocrates, Celsus, Ætius, Pliny, Alexander Trallian, Paulus Ægineta, Mayerne, Tachenius, Willis, Cornaro, Lister, Baglivi, Hoffman, Musgrave, Cheyne, Boerhaave, Van Swieten,

Mead, Oliver, Stukely, Cadogan, Caverhill, Pringle, Cotunnius, Cullen, Darwin, Heberden, Baker, Hunter, Hamilton, Latham, or Rush.

It is, at least, evident, either that he has not read these authors, some of which it was his indispensable duty as a physician to read; or that he has forgotten what he read; or that he is guilty of gross and wilful misrepresentation.

He is, therefore, placed in a very disagreeable dilemma; and one that totally disqualifies him from fulfilling his duty as an impartial evidence. What shall we say of a man, who declares, in a preface dated July 5th, 1804, that the gout has been universally deemed either salutary or incurable, when so many preceding writers had declared the contrary; when Heberden had told us, there was no more reason to consider the gout as a critical discharge of peccant humours, than rheumatism, epilepsy, or palsy, and that it would be happy for mankind, if the difficulty of curing the gout were as little as the danger?

Innumerable authors have written on the subject; but it does not appear evident that

Dr. Kinglake has ever read any of them. Even Dr. Rowley, whose writings reflect no great credit on the University of Oxford, where he graduated, after purchasing a diploma at St. Andrew's, nor on the College of Physicians, which admitted him as a licentiate, even Dr. Rowley is a prodigy of learning and medical science, in comparison of Dr. Kinglake.

Dr. Rowley, whose treatise on the gout was published ten years before Dr. Kinglake appeared on the stage, boasting of his wonderful cures, and pretending that nothing was done before his time, says, as the gout is an effort of the constitution to evacuate what is pernicious, the whole art of medicine should be directed to second those efforts.

He observes, that when a person is attacked with the gout, medicine should exert her efforts to check the growing evil. He also observes, that medicine is censured, because it cannot force arthritic patients to alter their usual mode of living, nor effect impossibilities; and that, on this account, the disorder rages without control.

He declares, that every fit of the gout

lays the foundation for another; and that arthritic patients are imposed on by ignorant and interested persons, who pretend that this painful affection is a cure for all other diseases.

With respect to the mode of treating the gout among savages, whom Dr. Kinglake, in his wisdom, calls sages, if we consult Dr. Rush, we shall find that there is very little foundation for the compliment which Dr. Kinglake pays them, at the expense of learned and enlightened physicians.

Rush tells us, he has never been able to hear of more than two or three cases of the gout among them; and that even these cases occurred to those who had learned the use of rum from white people. He tells us, their remedies, as well as their diseases, are few in number; that there cannot be a stronger mark of the imperfect state of knowledge in medicine among the Indians, than their method of treating the small-pox; that they plunge themselves into cold water, at the commencement of the disorder, and that it generally proves fatal to them. Hence we may conclude, that these *sages* have

made very little proficiency in the cure of the gout, or other diseases.

He tells us, we are sometimes amused with accounts of Indian remedies; but he thinks it evident they have no just pretence to such remedies, since they have recourse to enchantment. He has taken some pains to inquire into the success of their boasted specifics; and has never been able to hear of one single well-attested case of their efficacy.

It is difficult to conceive, how any physician can be so totally ignorant of the state of medicine, both foreign and domestic, as Dr. Kinglake appears to be. It is also difficult to conceive, how any one, so totally ignorant, could have the arrogance and presumption to write on the subject; and pretend, as he professedly has done, *to correct the errors of medical science.*

His own opinion, in many respects, is wavering, indecisive, and contradictory. P. 88, he tells us, that *little assistance can be derived from medical influence, in the cure of the gout; and that little occasion can occur for its aid.* P. 93, he tells us, that *neither bleeding nor purging is indicated in*

the cure of this disorder; and in p. 92, with the utmost degree of inconsistency, he tells us, that in every attempt to reduce distempered heat, intestinal obstruction should be obviated; as a source of visceral pressure, and systematic irritation.

He cannot plead, that the gout is not attended with distempered heat; for in the preceding paragraph he asserts, that the removal of redundant heat is *the only object* in such complaints.

P. 106, he tells us, his mode of curing the gout is not infallible; and in p. 338, he tells us it is infallible; till, however, he has reconciled this contradiction, "*till that auspicious era shall arrive,*" it will be better to let "*the savages, or rather sages of America enjoy exclusively the salutary advantages of immersion in cold water,*" in such complaints.

P. 197, he tells us, that *it is impossible the principle of the cooling treatment, which he recommends, should have escaped the earliest reasoning on the subject; that it pervades* the works of Hippocrates; *and that, happily for mankind, the practice of Sydenham was founded on this principle, and the*

fatal delusions of the humoural pathology, and of alexipharmic jargon, were finally overthrown.

After this full and candid confession, which appeared in the Medical Journal in 1803, it is rather strange, that in his Dissertation, dated 1804, he should still contend, that his own doctrine is original; and that the gout had *invariably* been considered as critical, and as a cure for other diseases, from *no other cause than the humoural pathology.*

In other places he pretends, that the Herculean task of curing the gout was reserved for him; but this claim is equally arrogant. It appears from the writings of ancient and modern physicians, that there have never been wanting men, who have endeavoured to stem the torrent of vulgar prejudice, and to treat the gout, as well as other disorders, in a rational way; but they have too often endeavoured to accomplish it in vain, owing to the prejudices and opposition which they had to encounter.

Dr. Kinglake pretends, that the opinions of medical men, with regard to the gout, have been *uniform;* but it is notorious, that

nothing has ever excited more controversy than the nature and cure of this disease. He tells us, p. 198, that "*not a single fact had previously reached his knowledge to authorize his practice; though, undoubtedly, many were extant.*" This shows how limited his knowledge was, and how ill qualified he was for the arduous and important duties of a physician.

He tells us, that he detests plagiarism; and that literary robbery has a deep shade of moral turpitude; but he has one comfort; for a man who *never reads*, or, if he reads, *forgets all that he has read*, is never likely to be guilty of that crime.

That Dr. Kinglake's notion is not original, is now evident. Mr. Wadd, the Surgeon, had followed the same mode of treatment, both in his own case, and in that of his patients to an extensive degree, twenty years; and the late Mr. Owen, the Fruiterer, of Bond Street, ten years. To the latter it was recommended by a Butler of Mr. Ashton Smith; who had long used it with advantage. These are far, very far, from being the only instances of the practice.

Dr. Peter Reid's Letter on the Study of

Medicine, and on the Medical Character, is one of the best antidotes for that excessive arrogance, ostentation, and presumption, which are now so prevalent in the medical world. He tells us, "it is certainly the duty of every man who engages in the study of a liberal profession, to know equally what constitutes *its value*, and *its imperfections;* that he may neither be betrayed into indifference or disgust, *by looking only on its defects;* nor be led into *errors equally pernicious, by conceiving it more perfect than it really is, and giving a false importance to things of no value.*"

He adds, "the first opinion discourages his exertions;" *the other*, which is that of Dr. Kinglake, "*makes him misplace them; overheats his imagination, at the expense of his judgment, and sometimes drives him into all the absurdities of a hair-brained enthusiast, who has lost that liberal cast of mind, which distinguishes an accomplished physician, in the narrow prejudices of his craft.*"

He observes, that probably "*no other profession requires a stricter guard against those manifold absurdities, by which an un-*

sound head is held up to the ridicule of a laughing world."

He tells us, "*it is one of the unfortunate circumstances of medicine, that folly has so many ways of displaying itself. It is so ready to thrust itself upon us,* that it requires more than usual circumspection, to prevent a man from being hooked by some of the baits which are hanging out, *to seduce him from common sense.*"

"Thus, if we take a survey of all those men, *who rank themselves among the sons of science without any fair passport, how many shall we see blowing bubbles, with as important an inflation of the cheeks, as if they were making worlds! How many, with their heads stuck with straws, strutting with as much mock majesty, as if they had covered them with diadems!*

"In this list we must include all *makers of random experiments.—How many, whose business it is to think soundly, would impose on you the rant of declamation for the deductions of science, and set up the blunders of their experience for the oracles of nature!*"

Who can read this, and not think of Dr. Kinglake?

"It is a very different character of mind," says Dr. Reid, "that fits a man for cultivating science with success. He must unite a patient attention to facts, with that capacity which combines them, and enables him to discover their various relations with facility; a mind that equally qualifies him to prosecute details, and establish principles; *a severity of judgment*, which prevents him from being entrapped by those glittering speculations, that are addressed to the imagination, and carry ordinary minds out of *the sober track, in which true science advances*, and *an honesty, which disdains making use of them to entrap others.*"

"A man of this stamp," says Dr. Reid, "applies the canons of a sound and rational logic to whatever he is engaged in; never leaps to a conclusion, before he has weighed every thing that bears on the question; carefully separates fact from opinion, *qualifies every rule with its exceptions, and is extremely cautious in generalizing.*"

How different is this from Dr. Kinglake, who no sooner hears of half a dozen gouty

people having plunged their feet into cold water with impunity, than he rashly concludes that all the world may do the same?

A truly scientific man, as Dr. Reid judiciously observes, is always "*impressed with such a sense of the limited extent of his powers, and of the innumerable fallacies to which we are exposed on all sides, as precludes all dogmatism in his opinions; guards against the errors of rash and superficial induction; and keeps his mind always open to conviction.*"

"*True science, it must be acknowledged, has a strong tendency to destroy some of those darling prejudices, which seem so bountifully contrived, to cully man from his cradle to his grave; and conduct him out of the dull region of realities, into that fairy land, where all is enchantment, and rapture, and nonsense.*"

"Where it does no harm," as Dr. Reid observes, "*it would be cruel to disturb this dream of vanity,* which plays so softly about the heart, reconciles a man to himself, and makes him revolve with perpetual delight *round his own axis*; while he believes himself *the centre of every thing.*" Who can

read this, and not think of Dr. Kinglake and his correspondents? Surrounded by these, like so many satellites, he fancies himself to be Saturn, or Jupiter, or Phœbus himself, the father and founder of the healing art.

It is certainly happy for the humble and industrious artisan, as Dr. Reid observes, that he feels such a degree of complacence and self-sufficiency, since it reconciles him to his lot; "but your destination," says he, addressing himself to the young physician, "is different; and it is in vain to think of renewing the dreams of infancy."

"That *judgment* and *experience*, which are *indispensably necessary*, to qualify you for the sphere in which you are to act, *will force upon you many disagreeable truths*; and frequently turn your eyes inwardly on *your own weakness*, and mortify you with the cruel sight of *that of other people*; so that where many see *a smooth surface*, you will perceive *nothing but inequalities*, and have the unhappy talent of converting many a sweet dimple, and many a beautiful smile, into a foul ulcer and an infernal grin.

"With whatever lenity, then, we may

be disposed to treat the prejudices of common life, *they deserve no mercy when they usurp the place of science, sanction pernicious errors, and presume to dictate in those provinces,* where reason alone should be supreme."

"It is certain, that *false science,* like many other things which an honest mind would spurn at, *often serves a man's turn in the world better than true.* The *vanity, presumption,* and *stupidity,* generally connected with it, make a man neither *shy,* nor *delicate, about the means which he employs.* He *never distrusts himself*; and consequently gains the confidence of that numerous tribe, *who take bold professions for deeds.*"

The gout is a disease of the rich; and, on this account, has probably given rise to more quackery, and imposition, than any other disorder. Husson and Pradier, two French officers, have widely disseminated their nostrums; which they advertise as specifics for the gout. It is not, however, in France alone, that military men turn physicians.

A captain lately was a doctor made;
It is a change of title, not of trade.

Husson has had his day; his specific is now on the decline. That of Pradier consists of a stimulating liquid, resembling brandy and the yolk of an egg, spread over a large warm linseed poultice. The liniment is sold at a dear rate; and, of course, possesses the greater virtue.

Mons. Pradier calls his application, which is *hot, the Remedy of Good Sense*; Dr. Kinglake also calls his application, which is *cold, the Remedy of Good Sense.* Who shall decide, when doctors disagree?

Each of these gentlemen tells us, he can bring clouds of witnesses, and volumes of evidence, to confirm his assertions, and prove the infallibility of his remedy; and yet nothing is more certain, than that their assertions are perfectly incompatible with each other; and that if one is true, the other must be false.

If heat is necessary, cold must be pernicious; and if cold is necessary, heat must be pernicious. Mons. Pradier complains that he is called a quack. This title he rejects with indignation. He thinks, and justly thinks, that any man who imposes on the public, in any way whatsoever, is a

quack; and, of course, that *a bad physician is a quack.*

He thinks, therefore, that there are a vast number of quacks in the world; and that *those are the most dangerous, in whom the greatest confidence is placed.*

It is difficult to decide, whether greater confidence ought to be placed in Doctor Pradier, or Doctor Kinglake. One goes to one extreme, and one to the other. Medio tutissimus ibis, and mediocria tuta, are two excellent maxims, sanctioned by the experience of all ages; and, with reverence to Messrs. Pradier and Kinglake be it spoken, still farther sanctioned by the authority of all good physicians, and wise men.

Tuto, cito, et jucunde, are also excellent maxims; and such as ought never to be forgotten, for a single moment, by any professor of the healing art. The first requisite, however, of any remedy, is, that it should be safe; and nothing that is violent can possibly be safe.

Est modus in rebus, sunt certi denique fines,
Quos ultra, citraque, nequit consistere rectum.

As far as can be judged from Dr. Kinglake's publication, he is a mere pretender;

and affects to despise medical erudition, only because it is an accomplishment which he does not possess. Either he has never read a medical book, or he has totally forgotten all that he has read; but it is well known, that great wits have short memories.

Dr. Gregory, in his Observations on the Duties and Offices of a Physician, remarks, that "physicians, considered as a body of men, who live by medicine as a profession, have an interest separate and distinct from that of their art. In pursuit of this interest, some have acted with candour, with honour, with the ingenuous and liberal manners of gentlemen. Conscious of their own worth, they disdained all artificial colourings, and depended on their real merit for success; *but such men are not the most numerous in any profession.*"

"*Some, impelled by necessity, some, stimulated by vanity, and others, anxious to conceal conscious ignorance, have had recourse to various mean and unworthy arts, to raise their importance among the ignorant; who are always the most numerous part of mankind.*"

"Medicine may be considered, either as

an art the most beneficial and important to mankind; *or as a trade,* by which a considerable body of men gain their subsistence. An obstinate adherence of a physician to an unsuccessful method of treating a disease, may sometimes be owing to *a high degree of self-conceit;* and an absolute belief of *the infallibility of his system.* The error here is without remedy; because it flows from a weak and ignorant head."

"It too often happens, that this obstinacy proceeds from a defect in the heart. *A physician sometimes sees he is wrong;* but is *too proud,* or rather *too vain,* to acknowledge his error; especially if the error is pointed out to him by another. To this species of pride, a pride incompatible with true dignity and elevation of mind, *have the lives of thousands been sacrificed.*"

Dr. Gregory observes, that a true philosopher is *cautious how he forms conclusions of what will happen, from what has happened.* Dr. Kinglake is *not cautions how he forms conclusious of what will happen from what has happened;* therefore, Dr. Kinglake is not a true philosopher.

He also observes, that an African who has seen water fluid, concludes it is always

fluid; in like manner Dr. Kinglake, who has seen people escape alive from cold water, concludes they will always escape. The mistake of the African, as Dr. Gregory remarks, proceeds not from his trusting to experience; but from his thinking he had experience, when in reality he had none. In like manner Dr. Kinglake's mistake proceeds, not from his trusting to experience, but from his thinking he had experience, when in reality he had none, or next kin to none.

"We have," says Dr. Gregory, "a remarkable instance of the effects of trusting to a *partial* and *limited experience*, in that *firm belief*, which people *ignorant of medicine* so frequently have, in the *wonderful effects of particular remedies*. *Many an old woman*, and, what is more surprising, *many a grave philosopher*, has *infallible cures for a number of diseases*, which *every physician finds incurable*."

He adds, *no physician*, indeed, has the comfort of thinking himself possessed of *an infallible cure, even for the scratch of a pin*. Dr. Kinglake concludes, that he has an infallible remedy for the gout. If, therefore,

Dr. Gregory's mode of reasoning is just, Dr. Kinglake is not a *physician,* but an *old woman.*

"Some physicians," says Gregory, "who are styled *empirics,* lay it down as a principle, and a very false one it is, that an inquiry into the causes of diseases, and the manner in which remedies produce their effects, are both useless. From their experience of the success of a remedy, in *some particular cases,* they venture to *prescribe it indiscriminately in all others,* where some of the *principal symptoms correspond;* without any farther inquiry into the circumstances in which they *differ;* or any other circumstance, that can throw light on the nature of the disease. *Here people deceive themselves, if they think they practise on the solid basis of experience.*

This is precisely Dr. Kinglake's case. It is also the case with many other individuals in the medical profession. Puffed up with conceit, and swelling with importance, on account of a little temporary success, they despise all learning; or, at least, all learning but their own. It is the lion in the way. It is a check to their pride, an ob-

stacle to their preferment, and a bar to their ambition. It is a magnifying-glass reversed; and shows them how little they, and their boasted experience, are in the grand scale of medical science.

Dr. Gregory observes, that there is a general propensity to give credit to the extravagant, and exaggerated accounts, of the effects of nostrums and quack-medicines. These, says he, are recommended to a patient, with an assurance of *infallibility*, which no physician, who has a regard to either honour, or prudence, *can in any case venture to give.*

" From the same cause," adds he, " we have seen, in our own times, many remedies loaded with encomiums to which they had no title; becoming fashionable for some years, in almost every disorder, and then sinking into neglect; such as *cold water*, crude mercury, rhubarb, soap, tar-water, lime-water, sea-water, Dr. Warde's medicines, and many of the class of poisons."

Dr. Mackittrick Adair, in his Medical Cautions, particularly notices an empiric, whose death had lately been announced. This man, availing himself of fashionable

prejudices, endeavoured to recommend his pills to the public, by pretending that nervous and bilious disorders were connected with the gout. One head of the hydra of empiricism was no sooner cut off, than several sprung up in its room; or, as Dr. Adair expresses it, "*successors to this celebrated gout-doctor have started up like mushrooms;* and, like them, will probably *soon rot into oblivion.*"

The same learned and ingenious author observes, that when a regular physician adopts an *extraordinary mode* of obtruding himself, *and his wonderful abilities*, on the notice of the public, it is no breach of charity to consider him as a quack. Let any one peruse the preceding statement; and then judge, how far this character is applicable to Dr. Kinglake.

As to common quacks, whose ignorance and knavery Dr. Adair endeavoured to expose; thirty years ago, when he wrote, they had increased in the British dominions to a truly alarming height. Since that time, they have increased to a height still more alarming. This is not to be wondered at, when

we recollect, that they are here encouraged by letters patent.

Quicquid delirant reges, plectuntur Achivi.

When Dr. Kinglake despises, or affects to despise, medical erudition, and medical authority, and all authority but his own, it is proper to humble his vanity; and to inform him, that Sydenham, whom he pretends to idolize, acted a very different part. "Not satisfied with the opportunities of acquiring knowledge which Oxford afforded, he travelled to Montpelier in quest of information; so far was he from entertaining *a contempt of academical institutions;* and so far from thinking it reasonable to learn the practice of physic *by experiments alone, which must necessarily be made at the hazard of life.*"

Such are the sensible and judicious remarks of his biographer, Dr. Swan; who adds, that "*he dedicated several years to the rudiments of his art; and travelled, for further instruction, from one university to another.*"

It is strange, as Dr. Swan observes, that

it should ever have been imagined, the greatest physician of his age attained so much skill, without some assistance from his predecessors; or that a man eminent for his integrity, practised medicine by chance, as some empirics, *regular as well as irregular*, have done; and "*grow wise only by murder.*"

When Dr. Kinglake tells us, that Sydenham exploded the humoural pathology, he compels us to doubt whether he ever saw the inside of his book; which is half full of that nonsense. In his preface he affirms, that every specific disease arises from some specific exaltation, or peculiar quality, of some humour contained in the living body. He declares, that *a pleurisy proceeds from an ill quality, and a broken texture of the blood;* that *particles of air insinuate themselves into the body, mix with the blood, and taint the whole frame;* and that other disorders arise from a *fermentation and putrefaction of the humours.*

He tells us, the gout is a contrivance of nature, *to purify the blood of aged persons*; and, as Hippocrates expresses it, to

purge the recesses of the body; and that the same may be said of *many other disorders.* He talks of *vitiation of the blood; effervescence and despumation of the blood;* and *concoction and expulsion of febrile and morbific matter.*

He talks of the *ebullition of the blood, the weakness of the blood, the spirit of the blood,* and the *corruption of the blood.* He tells us, one sort of madness is owing to the blood being *too rich and spirituous;* and another to its being in *too poor and vapid a state.*

He talks of *an inflammation of the spirituous particles of the blood;* and tells us, erysipelas proceeds from an *inflammation and corruption of the thinner parts of the blood.* He tells us, that in the *gout,* and *other diseases, the striking in of the morbific matter proves pernicious;* and what is more likely to *strike in* morbific matter than cold water?

He tells us, that the chief malignity of the *plague* also lies in *the most spirituous parts of the blood.* He talks about *breaking down the fibres of the blood, when preternaturally*

distended. He also tells us, that all epidemics, at their first appearance, seem to be more *spirituous and subtle*; and afterwards become more *gross* and humoural.

These examples are sufficient to show, that Dr. Kinglake is very little acquainted with Sydenham's doctrine; and that the theory of this celebrated physician was much less rational than his practice; but, as Dr. Gregory observes, his theory hung so loose about him, that he deviated from it as often as he saw occasion.

Sydenham informs us, that there were many *specifics* for the gout in his time; but candidly confesses that he knew none; and declares he feared, that those who boasted of such remedies, were no wiser than himself. He laments, that the healing art should be disgraced by such impositions; *either through the ignorance, or knavery, of those who advertise them.*

Barthez quotes a considerable number of authors, who have recommended cold water in the gout, either externally, or internally. These practices, though occasionally innocent, and even useful, are generally con-

demned, particularly by Sydenham, Gorter, and Musgrave; the last of whom relates some striking instances of syncope, produced by this refrigerant plan; which he thinks *always rash and dangerous.*

Among the gout-doctors and impostors of the present day, is a Dr. Wilson, residing in or near the county of Suffolk; who, having stolen the materials for a treatise from my Treatise on the Gout, and from other modern publications, struts about in his borrowed plumes, and imposes on country gentlemen; who are such *wise-acres* as to suppose that he has discovered the Eau Medicinale, or something better.

If this empiric, whether regular or irregular, has really made any notable discovery, it is his duty as a man, and still more his duty as a physician, to publish it for the benefit of mankind. If he has not, he ought to be treated as they treated other quacks in the time of King William; to be tied on to a horse, with his face towards the horse's tail, and to be flogged through the town where he practises his impositions.

It is absurd to suppose, that any medi-

cine can be adapted to every age, sex, climate, and constitution; or to any constitution at all times. When, therefore, any regular or irregular physician, or any regular surgeon, commences quack-doctor, and advertises a nostrum, he ought to be branded as an impostor; and stripped of the diploma which he disgraces.

In the present instance, there is a very gross and flagrant aggravation of the offence; for this Doctor Wilson advertises a safe and expeditious remedy for the gout; and when you have purchased his book, you have the mortification to find that the remedy is a secret; that you have been hoaxed out of your money, that the Doctor only wrote a treatise *to save the expense of advertising*, and that you have *only been paying him for his handbill.*

Every advertiser of a nostrum, and every other despicable charlatan, should take his motto from the patriotic poem of that right reverend prelate, and most excellent man, the late Dr. Porteus, Bishop of London:

One murder makes a villain,
Millions a hero.

When we recollect the unequal distribution of rewards and punishments in this world, and call to mind, how many petty criminals are now lingering in a gaol, or expiating their offences at Botany Bay, perhaps a more appropriate motto may be found for such a quack, to be inscribed on the gilded chariot in which he lolls:

Ille crucem, sceleris pretium tulit, hic diadema.

CULLEN'S OPINION.

Cullen is of opinion, that the gout *is curable;* that it is *not occasioned by morbific matter;* and consequently, that it is *not a salutary disease.* Hence we may readily conclude, that Dr. Kinglake has never read Cullen; that medical erudition is not to be despised, as Dr. Kinglake insinuates; and that academical authority, in the present age, is not quite so prone to countenance any vulgar error, as Dr. Kinglake supposes.

Dr. Cullen observes, that *we have no direct evidence of any morbific matter being present, in persons disposed to the gout;* and *that there are no experiments or observations to show, that the blood, or other humours of*

gouty persons, are in any respect different from those of other persons.

He observes, that *previously to attacks of the gout, there appear no marks of any morbid state of the fluids;* on the contrary, *the disorder generally attacks those persons, who have enjoyed the most perfect health; and appear to be in that state when the disease comes on.*

"*At a certain period of the disease,*" says he, "*a peculiar matter appears in gouty persons;* but this, *which does not appear in every instance,* and *which appears only after the disorder has subsisted for a long time, seems manifestly to be the effect, and not the cause of the disease.*"

"*Although there are certain acrid substances, which, when taken into the body, seem to excite the gout, it is probable that they operate otherwise, in exciting the disease, than by affording the material cause of it.* In general, therefore, *there is no proof of any morbific matter being the cause of the gout.*"

"Secondly," Dr. Cullen observes, "the suppositions concerning the particular nature of the matter producing the gout, have

been so various, and so contradictory to each other, as to allow us to conclude, that there is, in reality, *no proof of the existence of any of them.* With respect to many of these suppositions, *they are so inconsistent with chemical philosophy, and with the laws of the animal economy, that they must be utterly rejected.*"

"Thirdly, *the supposition of a morbific matter being the cause of the gout, is not consistent with the phenomena of the disease; particularly with its frequent and sudden translations from one part to another.*"

"Fourthly, the supposition is further rendered improbable by this circumstance, that *if a morbific matter did exist, its operation would be similar in the several parts which it attacks; whereas it seems to be very different, being stimulant, and exciting inflammation in the joints, but sedative, and destructive of the tones in the stomach; which, on the supposition of a specific matter acting in both cases, is not to be explained by any difference in the part affected.*"

"Fifthly, some facts, alleged in proof of a morbific matter, are not sufficiently confirmed; such as those, which would prove

the disorder to be contagious. There is no satisfactory evidence of this; the facts adduced being not only few but exceptionable; and the negative observations innumerable."

"Sixthly, some arguments brought in favour of a morbific matter, are founded on a mistaken explanation. The disease has been supposed to depend on a morbific matter, because it is hereditary, but the inference is not just; for hereditary disorders in general do not depend on any morbific matter, but a particular conformation of the structure of the body, transmitted from the parent to the offspring; and this appears to be particularly the case in the gout. It may also be observed, that hereditary disorders which depend on a morbific matter, always appear much earlier in life, than the gout commonly does."

"Seventhly, the supposition of morbific matter being a cause of the gout, has hitherto been useless; as it has not suggested any successful method of cure. Particular hypotheses have often corrupted the practice, and diverted medical men from those indications which might be useful; and from that practice which experience had ap-

proved. Besides, though the supposition of a morbific matter has been generally admitted in theory, it has been as generally neglected in practice. When the gout attacks the stomach, nobody thinks of correcting the matter supposed to be present there; but merely of restoring the tone of the moving fibres."

"Eighthly, the supposition of a morbific matter is quite superfluous; for it explains nothing, without supposing that matter to produce a change in the state of the moving powers; and a change in the state of the moving powers, produced by other causes, explains every circumstance without the supposition of a morbific matter; and it may be observed, that many of the causes exciting the gout, do not operate on the fluids, but directly and solely on the moving powers."

"Lastly, the supposition of a morbific matter is also superfluous, because, without any such supposition, I think the disease may be explained in a manner more consistent with its phenomena, with the laws of the animal economy; *and with the method of cure which experience has approved.*"

How inconsistent is this observation of Dr. Cullen with what is asserted by Dr. Kinglake, that the gout has uniformly been deemed either salutary or incurable! And this observation, and all Dr. Cullen's other observations on the subject, were probably written before Dr. Kinglake was born.

Cullen, it is true, thinks it probable that the gout cannot be cured by medicines; and cold water is a medicine. He also thinks it would have been happy for gouty people, if they had implicitly adopted this opinion; "as it would prevent them from being so often duped by *self-interested pretenders*; who either amuse them with inert medicines, *or really employ those of the most pernicious tendency.*"

He observes, that the gout may be entirely prevented by temperance and exercise, even in those who have an hereditary disposition to the disease; and that, for preventing or moderating the regular gout, *water is the only proper drink.* This is what was taught by the ancients. To this discovery, therefore, Dr. Kinglake has no proper claim.

Cullen is of opinion, that during the time of a paroxysm, the body is in a feverish

state; on which account, in general, no irritation should be added to it; and that "*every part of the antiphlogistic regimen, except the application of cold, ought to be strictly observed.*"

Hence it appears, that Dr. Kinglake's pretence of the gout having always been considered as either salutary or incurable, is an empty boast. It is the offspring of unsufferable arrogance, and unpardonable empiricism. In short, it is almost as bad as the open and undisguised quackery of Dr. Wilson.

In the Annals of Medicine, Dr. Duncan, and Dr. Duncan, junior, the editors of that work, after contradicting a false report which had appeared in the Medical Journal, observe, that although the sudden death of Dr. Gregory affords no objection to Dr. Kinglake's proposal, they are *very far from asserting, that the application of cold wet cloths to a part inflamed, and painful from the gout, is a safe practice.*

DARWIN'S OPINION.

Darwin expresses an opinion, that the gout may in some instances be cured, and

in others relieved, by the antiphlogistic plan; and confirms his opinion by his own case; contrary to what Dr. Kinglake pretends.

Caverhill, who also wrote many years before Dr. Kinglake, was of opinion, that the gout is owing to a disease of the solids, and not of the fluids. He was also of opinion, that although no disorder has been left so much to nature as the gout, it is evident no one requires so much assistance from art.

Cadogan was of opinion, that the gout is *not only curable,* but *more easily and more perfectly curable, than almost any other disease.* He cured himself, as Cheyne had done before, and as Darwin, and many others, have since done.

It is remarkable that so many modern gout doctors, from Cadogan and Brown down to Kinglake and Jones, should imagine that nothing was known on the subject till their time; and that every thing was reserved for them to discover, or announce to the world. Even Husson's own publication, quoted by Dr. Jones, contains a letter from Dr. Collet, Dean of Medicine in the College of Troyes, in which he maintains, *that the gout is not*

an incurable disease; that the greatest obstacle to its cure is the fear of checking a humour; and "that whether it is recent or inveterate, *the healing art offers an infinite number of resources to repel its attacks, alleviate its tortures, and annihilate the complaint.*"

Oliver was of opinion that the gout is neither salutary nor incurable; and lays down excellent rules both for the relief and cure of the disorder; contrary to the repeated assertion of Dr. Kinglake.

Mead was of opinion, that the gout is, in general, curable; but disapproves of cold applications.

Van Swieten was of opinion, that the gout is curable, and has frequently been cured. He also prescribes the mode of treatment; which I have explained in my Treatise on that disease.

Boerhaave's opinion is similar to that of his commentator, Van Swieten.

Hoffman lays down rules for mitigating the violence of the pain; and for preventing a return of the disorder. He *recommends abstinence,* and declares *he has known a number of persons cured of the gout in this man-*

ner. He confirms his opinion by that of Trincavellus, and Solenander; adding, that there are a number of cases on record, of persons who, having abstained from wine, in consequence of being cast into prison, or reduced to poverty, remained free from the gout.

He also confirms his opinion by the authorities of Bruyerius, Schenkius, Von Heyden, Pechlin, and Petrarch. He moreover quotes Celsus and Pliny, to prove that many persons have been cured of the gout by drinking asses milk.

He affirms that external remedies can seldom be applied to the parts affected without danger; and that it appears from a very great number of observations, that fatal effects have followed the application of such remedies; among others, apoplexy, palsy, loss of memory, convulsive asthma, heartburn, spasmodic colic, and inflammation of the stomach and bowels.

Cheyne thought it safe to give cathartics, in order to prevent the return of the gout; and knew some eminent physicians, who entertained so little respect for the opinion of Sydenham, that they never scrupled to

drive off a fit of the gout from themselves, or their patients, by strong, quick, and active purges.

Musgrave lays down rules for the prevention and cure of the gout; and condemns the cooling treatment of the complaint, such as is recommended by Dr. Kinglake.

Baglivi, and not Sydenham, is the author, to whom we are indebted for exploding the humoural pathology. He maintains that the causes of diseases are seated in the solids. His example has been followed by Hoffman, Cullen, and other modern pathologists. He has laid down rules for the cure of the gout; of which I have given an account in my Treatise on that subject.

Lister is so far from thinking the gout *incurable*, as, Dr. Kinglake affirms, all physicians who preceded him had uniformly and invariably done, that he strenuously contends *it is curable;* and supports his opinion by the authority of the ancients; as well as by his own multiplied experience for many years. He maintains, "that it is *not only curable when recent*, but *even when inveterate;* and *that there is no branch of the medical profession, in which physicians may be more*

useful, in whatever stage or condition of the complaint they are consulted."

He considers Sydenham, when treating on the gout, as no better than an old woman; and recommends the antiphlogistic plan.

Cornaro, though not a medical man, cured himself of the gout, and a complication of other disorders, at the age of thirty-five; and enjoyed good health, unless when he deviated from his regimen, till he was upwards of a hundred years old; and Musgrave relates a case of a gentleman, who had the gout so frequently, and so severely, that he had a considerable number of remarkably large chalkstones, yet, being reduced to poverty, and obliged to labour for his bread, he became athletic, his chalkstones utterly vanished, and he lived many years in a state of good health.

Even Sydenham recommends, that the cure of the gout should be attempted, as far as the age and strength of the patient will admit; but he was misled by the humoural pathology, and a false theory; and, in this respect, timid in his practice.

Willis lays down a very judicious plan,

both for the cure, and the prevention of the disorder.

Tachenius not only prescribes a mode for the treatment of the gout; but alludes to Bairus, who cured himself of it; and lived twenty-six years without any return of the complaint.

Mayerne lays down a plan, as well for the cure, as for the prevention of the gout. He also alludes to Bairus.

Dr. Uwins observes, that Brown's stimulating plan, which Dr. Kinglake supposes to have been the only plan previous to his own, *militates against that of all the most experienced physicians;* and Phinehas Hedges, the medical attendant, and intimate friend, of the immortal Washington, observes, it is confirmed by the experience of all ages, that it ought to be treated by the antiphlogistic plan.

An unknown Greek author, of whose treatise a Latin translation is published by Henry Stevens, in his Medicæ Artis Principes, has also laid down a method of treating the gout; both for the cure and the prevention of the disorder. Among other remedies, he recommends cold water; but

not as an exclusive remedy, like Dr. Kinglake.

On the contrary, he sets a due value on the works of the many able writers, and eminent physicians, who had gone before him; as, we are told by Dr. Swan, Sydenham did; sensible that it would ill become him to suppose, that no one knew any thing but himself, as Dr. Kinglake has done.

This anonymous author, on the contrary, as if he were answering Dr. Kinglake, who contends that nothing is necessary in the gout but cold water, observes, that "*there are some who say purging is of no use in the gout; but they are ignorant of the very elements of the healing art.*"

"If, therefore, to use the words of Hippocrates, any one who perfectly understands the many splendid discoveries which have been made in physic, during a length of time, endeavours to make *further discoveries,* he shows his judgment; for *possibly many things may hereafter be found out. But he who discards and rejects those discoveries which are already made, and tries to invent new methods of practice, and new laws in the animal economy, and boasts of his dis-*

coveries, deceives others, and is deceived himself; for it is impossible to be done."

Paulus Ægineta declares the gout to be curable; affirms that he has often known it cured; and lays down a very judicious plan, both for the removal and prevention of the disorder. He considered it as a disease of the solids; and his writings alone, if there were no other treatise on the malady extant, are sufficient to prove how little Dr. Kinglake, and many other modern authors who have written on the gout, understand the subject.

Alexander Trallian, as well as the anonymous Greek author, recommends bleeding and purging for the gout. He chiefly relied on purging medicines, in the cure of that disorder. He has written largely on the subject; from which, as Freind observes, it is probable the complaint was become prevalent in his time.

The same learned author observes, that some people fondly supposed the cathartic plan to be a recent discovery; and that his compositions are probably full as efficacious as the boasted nostrums which are sold by modern quacks.

He remarks, that although the gout has obtained *an ill name, and been thought incurable, it is easy of cure.* His method of treating the disorder consists chiefly of evacuations, and abstinence. By these means, he informs us, he has known many people cured; or so much relieved, that they were seldom troubled with an attack.

He recommends a slender and cooling diet, and water as a beverage; and declares, *he has* known *many people continue free from the gout, merely in consequence of their abstaining from wine.*

He tells us, that *some people take a compound powder of hermodactyls,* sometimes combined with scammony; which, they say, *causes some loose stools, and makes them presently wish to walk.* This, he acknowledges, is true; and that it is seldom what this medicine promises by its title, as *an anodyne for the gout,* does not actually come to pass; but, he adds, *it has also a prejudicial effect, for those who take it are teased with more frequent attacks of the disease.*

On this occasion I remarked, in my Treatise on the Gout, published in 1811, that from the account of Alexander Trallian

it appears, *the bad effects, as well as the good effects of this medicine, are similar to those of the Eau Medicinale;* for he says, *all those who took it were troubled with nausea, the day they took it; and loathed their food.*

I also observed, that one of his formulæ is composed of aloes, scammony, *seeds of wild cucumber, and hermodactyls;* and that each of the two last of these ingredients, the former of which yields the expressed and inspissated juice called *elaterium,* had been suspected to be the basis of the Eau Medicinale.

Subsequent information, and experiments, afford great reason to believe, that this suspicion, with regard to the hermodactyls, is well-founded. The hermodactyl is supposed by our greatest botanists, to be colchicum, or meadow saffron; and many instances have lately been published by Mr. Want, in which similar effects to those of the Eau Medicinale were produced.

The same ancient physician prescribes cold applications in cases attended with heat; and warm applications in cases attended with cold. He also directs the patient to drink

cold water with his meals in summer; and lukewarm water in winter. In the intervals of the disorder, he prescribes occasional evacuations, and tonics; and when we recollect how gouty patients in general live, we cannot wonder that cathartics, and other evacuants, occasionally prove the best tonics in their constitutions.

Ætius agrees with other ancient physicians, that the gout arises from plenitude and loss of tone; and consequently that it is a disease of the solids. He therefore prescribes bleeding and purging; and afterwards cold applications if the parts were too warm, and warm applications if they were too cold. By this plan *he cured several cases, of three or four years standing.* He complains that *some practitioners do mischief, by applying remedies in the gout which are too cooling.* He extols emetics, as preventive of the disease.

Oribasius, a still more ancient author, says, *the intention of cure is the same in the gout, as in other local inflammations*; and that we ought to disperse what is accumulated in the parts affected in consequence of this defluxion; and which, if suffered to

remain there, will form concretions, that render it impossible to restore the limb to its proper state.

He recommends general and local bleeding, purging, and repellents. He also recommends friction with salt and oil.

Here it may be proper to ask, how Dr. Kinglake, who tells us he is a member of the Medical Society of Edinburgh, and of the Physical Society of Gottingen, and consequently may be supposed to have imbibed the milk of instruction from both those universities, could be ignorant that Ætius cured the gout, and censured such rash pretenders as himself?

We may ask him, how he could be ignorant that Oribasius, a still more ancient author, declares, *the intention of cure is the same in the gout as in other local inflammations?*

Dr. Kinglake, indeed, tells us, he has looked over all the books in his library, and has never been able to find any such doctrine as this of Oribasius. What books he has in his library it is difficult to conjecture. They probably consist of Don Quixote, and other

romances; such as, Sir Richard Blackmore informs us, Sydenham advised him to read.

When I was writing my Treatise, Mr. Blair observed, that the use of oil, by friction, had been cried up as new, about eight years before, as that of cold water was, soon after, by Dr. Kinglake; whereas the plan of using oil was practised by Dr. Rogers on himself and others, and said to have been attended *with surprising success*, in 1729.

Dr. Stukely, a fellow of the College of Physicians, published a pamphlet on the subject, in the year 1740; in which he states, that he had tried it eleven years, without being conscious of any failure. Dr. Rogers declared, he could bring five hundred cases; in all of which it had succeeded.

It must, however, be remarked, that these gout-doctors had recourse to *brisk vomiting*, *purging*, and *sweating*, besides the *oily frictions*; and that there was something empirical in the method of preparing and vending the oil, the composition of which was not well understood.

Such impositions are, and always have

been, common; but it is not common to find *professional men*, or *any men*, so grossly and shamefully ignorant of the history of medicine, and of all medical science, as *our modern gout-doctors*, and *writers on the subject of the gout*, in general, are; for they pretend that no one ever cured the gout, or thought it curable, till they made their appearance in the world.

Quintus Serenicus Samonicus recommends leeches for the cure of the gout.

Cœlius Aurelianus directs clysters, in cases of constipation. He also recommends cupping, or leeches; or, what he thinks preferable, scarification without cupping, as doing less injury to the part affected. After the decline of the fit, he advises that the patient should bathe, use moderate exercise, live abstemiously, and drink water; or, at least, that he should be cautious not to drink much wine.

Galen prescribes bleeding, purging, and repellents, for the cure of this distemper.

Aretæus recommends *the application of cold* to the limb when it is *hot;* and of *heat* when it is *cold.* In the first case he orders

a cooling diet; and in the latter, that the part should be wrapped in wool.

Celsus *prescribes bleeding immediately on an attack of the gout;* and says *it sometimes removes the fit for a year, and sometimes for life.* He also recommends temperance, exercise, frictions, warm and *cold affusions,* and occasional evacuations. When the swelling and inflammation are considerable, he advises cold bathing; but gives a caution *against keeping the limb in water long, for fear of injury;* which is a proof that he had known the practice attended with injury. He also prescribes other cooling applications, as the case may require; and what can Dr. Kinglake, with all his ostentation, do more?

To prevent a return of the complaint, he orders emetics and cathartics; and water as a general beverage; with wine only once in three or four days. He particularly insists on long-continued frictions; and gives a strict caution against any sudden change of life.

Hippocrates, the father of physic, advises that those who labour under the gout should be purged; and drink whey and

asses milk. He declares that inveterate cases of the gout are sometimes cured by dysentery or diarrhea; and was so far from being afraid of disturbing nature in her functions, as Dr. Kinglake once pretended, that he recommends *the free application, and copious affusion of cold water,* to the parts affected, in order to assuage the swelling and anguish of the disease. At the same time he remarks, that whatever induces a moderate torpor of the limb, will ease pain.

He deemed those cases in which there are concretions in the joints, and the patients are advanced in years, incurable. Subsequent experience, however, has proved the contrary. Several such cases have been cured by a rigid plan of abstinence, and regular exercise; and this proves the falsehood of the assertion of a modern quack, who signalized himself in the cause of Joanna Southcott, that the College of Physicians have left the healing art in the same state, in which it was in the time of Hippocrates. A thousand instances might easily be adduced, to prove the contrary; but the writings of Heberden alone are sufficient to refute that calumny.

Hippocrates admits, that the gout is curable in young people who live temperately, and are fond of exercise, and have an intelligent physician to direct them; but we have abundant testimonies, in modern times, to prove that we never ought to despair.

Having now traced Dr. Kinglake's *new method* of treating the gout up to Hippocrates, and the earliest records of the healing art, and proved by the most incontestable evidence, that the light of reason has never been so totally extinguished, as he, and some other self-sufficient authors, arrogantly pretend, I cannot better conclude this article, than by subjoining the plan proposed by Rush; which is altogether as rational, as that extolled by modern upstarts, and empirics, is irrational.

He considers the gout as an inflammatory affection of the ligaments of the joints; and observes, that when symptoms of general indisposition portend an approaching fit, the disease may easily be prevented by the loss of a few ounces of blood; or by a gentle dose of physic. In the time of a paroxysm, he orders bleeding; and such

other evacuations as the nature of the case may seem to indicate.

He also recommends temperance, exercise, and occasional evacuations, to prevent a return of the complaint.

KINGLAKE ON OBSTETRIC PRACTICE.

An article, under this title, having appeared in the Medical Journal for October, 1815, I shall here make a few observations on it, as they tend to show how rashly Dr. Kinglake ventures to write, on subjects which he does not understand.

He tells us, the legitimate objects of midwifery should be *most precisely* defined; and arrogates to himself the right, as well as the qualification, of *most precisely* defining them. How far he is really qualified for the task, will evidently appear, by submitting his arguments to the test of examination.

He tells us, that to suppose an inadequacy in nature to accomplish every requisite, respecting the birth of the human species, is to imagine that chance, and not consummate wisdom, is concerned in this most important event. To suppose the contrary,

however, is to imagine that there is no such thing in the world as a wrong presentation; or a deformed, or disproportioned pelvis.

He tells us, the works of nature are *universally perfect;* and happy would it be, if he could prove that assertion to be true. We should then never see a monstrous production, or *a human being without brains.*

He tells us, the institutions and provisions of the animal economy are more particularly distinguished by the utmost exactness; and, of course, that the animal economy is *more than perfect,* or the other works of nature *less than perfect.* The first is nonsense: the last is contrary to his own assertion.

He tells us, *deviations from the general competency of nature,* in the function of *parturition, in common with all other natural laws, may, and do, occasionally present.* Of course, there are exceptions to the general rule, even by his own confession; and consequently, *the works of nature are not universally perfect.*

After a long string of truisms, he tells us, that it is never justifiable to use instruments, in labour, unless in cases of wrong

presentation, hemorrhage, or convulsions. Here he shows the grossest ignorance of the subject on which he writes, by not mentioning some of the most common, and most important cases, in which instrumental aid is necessary; namely, those of a narrow or deformed pelvis.

Two pages and a half of tautological nonsense are employed by Dr. Kinglake, to prove, what a wiser man than Dr. Kinglake, with reverence be it spoken, will never be able to prove; namely, that surgical aid should never be sought till the moment when it is wanted; for it would then, too frequently, be sought in vain.

He thinks men ought to abandon the practice; which he terms a *busy, intermeddling*, and *mischievous craft*. It is a *busy, intermeddling, and mischievous craft* in him, to endeavour to disparage the profession, and practice of surgeons; though, it must be confessed, his jealousy is not altogether groundless; for, it is well known, that surgery is more and more appreciated, that surgeons are rapidly improving every branch of the healing art, and that they already

tread very closely on the heels of some physicians.

It is no wonder, that such a physician as Dr. Kinglake should be fearful of such rivals; but the public good, and the most important interests of humanity, are not to be sacrificed to his private interest; nor to the private interest of any individual whatever, to whatever *craft* he may belong.

Certain it is, that the author of these observations has known so many instances of gross ignorance and neglect, in uneducated persons who practise midwifery, and has so often been called in to such cases when it was too late, that he cannot but congratulate an enlightened age, on the preference which they give to physicians and surgeons; who are, or may easily become, equally qualified for the practice.

At the same time it is hoped, that the Legislature will, in its wisdom, take this subject into its most serious consideration; and decide, whether any education and examination of those, on whom the welfare and prosperity of the public so much depend, is necessary; or whether any, and every, ignorant and illiterate impostor, of

either sex, is to be at liberty, as at present, to hang out the insignia of that important profession, and to murder his Majesty's liege subjects with impunity.

The following statement of the decrease of deaths, in lying-in women, within the last hundred and fifty years, taken from the Bills of Mortality by Dr. Samuel Merriman, is sufficient to refute Dr. Kinglake's philippic against men-midwives; since it proves how much more successful the practice has been in their hands, than in those of the female sex.

From 1661 to 1670, one in forty died; from 1751 to 1760, one in eighty; and in ten years, ending in 1814, only one in a hundred and ten.

The number of still-born children has also diminished in the following proportion. In the first period there was one in nineteen; in the second one in twenty-two; and in the last, only one in thirty-two.

So much for the instrumental mischief, and other obstetrical bugbears, of Dr. Kinglake.

For more than twenty years past, he has been blowing bubbles in water; and build-

ing castles in the air. In almost every volume of the Medical Journal, commencing in the year 1798, we are pestered with his folly and absurdity. In the second volume of that work, he quotes two passages from his own inaugural Dissertation, dated in 1794, in the first of which he tells us, as Mr. Abernethy has since told us, that the principle of vitality pervades the whole world; in the second, that it exists in all sorts of bodies, whether animal, vegetable, or mineral; and that, in the last, it shows itself in the form of attraction.

From an account published in the third volume of the Journal it appears, that the Doctor performs the same miracles with digitalis in consumptions, as he performs with cold water in the gout. Tubercles fly before his face, and before his magical powder or tincture, like chaff before the wind. But, unfortunately, it also appears by the same publication, that when he boasts of his success, whether in gout or consumption, he finds it difficult to convince medical men of the fact.

It is, indeed, a melancholy truth, that this boasted specific, when administered with

all possible skill and caution, by the most eminent members of the medical profession, has never produced any such effects as he and other *puffing practitioners* pretend. We may, therefore, say, as Mr. Sheridan said, in reply to Mr. *Bragge* Bathurst, "*Brag is a good dog; but Holdfast is a better.*"

In the fourth volume of the Journal, Mr. Schaw, a navy surgeon, published an account of three cases, in which cold affusion, in fever attended with catarrhal symptoms, did evident mischief; by aggravating the cough to such a pitch, as almost totally precluded rest. It is natural, from analogy, to suppose that equal injury may arise, from the application of cold water to a gouty limb.

In the same volume, Dr. Kinglake contends, with respect to digitalis, that the abuse of a thing is no argument against its use. The same may be said with regard to the practice of midwifery by the male sex; which, he thinks, ought to be abandoned, at least in its present form, as inconsistent with the welfare and happiness of the patient, and even with common honesty.

This comes with an ill grace from a

man, who has for many years been in the constant habit of publishing, what one half of the world do not read, and the other half do not believe. The most eminent members of the medical profession employ, and have long employed, surgeons, or physicians, who on this occasion act the part of surgeons, as accoucheurs in their own families; and recommend the same plan to their friends, and to the public at large. The public themselves are now, indeed, sufficiently enlightened, to decide that question; without the aid of our modern oracle, Dr. Kinglake.

In the third volume of the Medical Journal is a plate, representing a case of monstrosity. Let any one look at that plate; and then say, whether the works of nature are universally perfect, as Dr. Kinglake, with his usual confidence, rashly asserts. But what will not Dr. Kinglake assert?

As a proof that cases of monstrosity are not extremely uncommon, two others are described in the same volume. Instead of being always uniform, and always perfect, as Dr. Kinglake maintains, it would be, at least, as correct to say with Milton,

Nature breeds,
Monstrous, all horrid, all prodigious things,
Abominable, unutterable, and worse
Than poets e'er have feign'd, or fear conceiv'd,
Gorgons, and hydras, and chimeras dire.

In the fourth volume of the Journal is another case of monstrosity, or malformation, as Mr. Simmons calls it; in which he observes, and justly observes, that a want of brain is *no uncommon thing;* and I cannot help suspecting, that one instance of the kind is to be found in *the medical profession.*

Certain it is, that any thing will do for a doctor. The hood does not make the monk, but the diploma makes the doctor; as the universities of St. Andrews and Aberdeen know full well; and Dr. Kinglake, Dr. Solomon, and Dr. Brodum, also know.

As to Dr. Kinglake, he is probably a regular physician in point of education; however irregular he may be with regard to practice. When we consider that he commenced his career at Bristol, at the time when Dr. Beddoes was intoxicating people with his hyperoxygenated gas, it is probable he inhaled this active fluid; which makes men become mad,

And run a-muck, and tilt at all they meet.

In the same number of the Journal is a letter from Dr. Kinglake, dated Chilton super Poldon; in which he states, contrary to what might be supposed from his late invectives against men-midwives, that he himself was at this very time a man-midwife; and, strange as it may appear, that he founded his obstetrical opinion, not on theory, like his opinion concerning the treatment of the gout; but on "*long and extensive experience.*"

It is generally supposed, that a rolling stone gathers no moss; but Dr. Kinglake is an exception to this rule; for, go where he will, or stay where he will, he meets with so many cases of gout, and so many *hundred* cases of consumptions, as never man met with before. He travels from Edinburgh to Gottingen, or from Gottingen to Edinburgh. He travels from one of these universities to Bristol; then to Chilton super Poldon, then to Taunton; and wherever he happens to practise for a few months, he picks up as many patients as Mr. Williams, the celebrated oculist, did at Liverpool, where he was assisted by *the common crier.*

His paper in the Journal, is on the subject of extracting the placenta. On this, as well as every other occasion, in compliance with the old adage, *Stulti, dum vitant vitia, in contraria currunt,* he finds fault with those who leave the placenta too long; and then, lest he should be inconsistent with himself, adds, that as soon as the child is born, and the funis tied and divided, he immediately sets about extracting the placenta. In his own quaint language he tells us, that his *operative attention is incessantly engaged in its removal.*

Well may he denominate such an unreasonable, and unseasonable practice, "*a busy, intermeddling, and mischievous craft.*"

Let him not, however, cast unjust reflections on his brethren of the accoucheur tribe; who are probably full as *honest* as himself.

> One slander will ten thousand get;
> The world with int'rest pays the debt.

I would wish to be charitable, and to show compassion, particularly to those who are weak, and unable to defend themselves; but, as Junius observes, "*when facts are so*

daringly challenged, compassion would cease to be a virtue."

The late Dr. Clarke, who had as good opportunities of ascertaining the truth, in this respect, as any man, in his Commentaries observes, that it would scarcely be thought possible, in a civilized country, if it did not stand on record in the College of Physicians, that so learned a body, who might be supposed to be the less liable to prejudice, would pass a bye-law to exclude the fellows of the College from practising midwifery; and consequently from acquiring much knowledge of the diseases of children.

It seemed to him to be a law calculated for perpetuating ignorance; by preventing men of the best education, and the highest attainments in learning, from adding to the stock of medical knowledge, on subjects most dear and important to society. He also thought, that a man could not be a good surgeon, unless he had a general acquaintance with the practice of physic; and devoted some attention to the practice of midwifery also, which partakes both of surgery and physic.

The editors of the Medical Repository

justly express their surprise, that Dr. Clarke's censure did not embrace the Court of Assistants of the College of Surgeons also; who have passed a similar bye-law, to prohibit the members of their court from practising midwifery. This prohibition is the more unjustifiable, because midwifery is the most important branch of their profession.

Mr. Thomas, a surgeon, of Wakefield, expressed an opinion that Dr. Kinglake had seldom attended natural labours. The Doctor thinks this a *breach of decorum*. Certain it is, however, that many other medical men have been guilty of the same breach of decorum; and will not believe that the Doctor, who graduated only six years before, and altered his residence once or twice, could have had such "*ample experience*" in *midwifery* as he pretends; unless it can be proved that he is a seventh son, and was born a doctor; or that he is marked with a crotchet or a pair of forceps, as a sign of innate skill.

Mr. Thomas, who derives his own share of obstetrical science from the school of Osborn and Clarke, founded by Denman, thinks, and justly thinks, the previous disci-

pline of a good education, and constant practice in midwifery, necessary to qualify a man for that important office; and all the arrogant pretensions of those, who fancy that, without such diligent preparation, they are always qualified to act, in all emergencies, at a moment's warning, as nothing but an empty boast, and idle gasconade. In this opinion, every impartial man of common sense must agree with him.

Hence it appears, how rashly Dr. Kinglake condemns the present practice of midwifery; and any one who peruses Gregory's Conspectus Medicinæ Theoreticæ, will soon discover that it is equally rash to extol the internal and external use of cold water, as safe and infallible remedies in the gout.

Dr. Gregory declares, that it is the part of an empiric, and unworthy of a learned and liberal physician, to extol any remedy as infallible, even in the most trifling disorder.

He also observes, and laments, that cooling medicines in general, if not all of them, are *much less efficacious than medical writers have supposed them to be;* and that *we must never trust to them alone, when the circula-*

tion is violent, or the heat of the body considerable.

This distinguished author is the present Professor of the practice of physic in the University of Edinburgh; he was formerly professor of the theory of physic. His father, whose works I before quoted, was once the colleague of Cullen; and alternate lecturer on the practice of physic.

The present Professor, after alluding to the inefficacy of *internal* refrigerants, observes that *cold*, by which he seems to mean the combined use of internal and external refrigerants, or the external application of refrigerants alone, is undoubtedly *one of the most certain and powerful of all sedatives.*

He observes, that, when *properly applied*, it has many excellent effects; *unless it is too intense.* This is a truth, which every rational physician and surgeon, and every other person of reason and common sense, must readily acknowledge. Reason and common sense, however, without experience and medical erudition, are not sufficient for the direction of so powerful an agent; much less, to use his own words, "*the busy, intermeddling, and mischievous*

craft," of such a practitioner as Dr. Kinglake.

" Every one," says Dr. Gregory, " who is ever so little acquainted with this subject, knows, that *the more excellent a medicine is, the more danger is to be apprehended from it, if it is unseasonably used; and the more caution is necessary, in order to administer it safely, and to advantage.*"

" *A blind credulity,*" adds the same celebrated author, " *and an implicit confidence, in the virtues of certain specific medicines, for the cure of certain diseases, without regard to any other consideration, is so natural and agreeable to the lower class of people, and indeed to every one who is not imbued with real knowledge, that if the same rage should at length seize on professional men, the only foundations on which it rests will be shaken; and there will be an end of medical science.*"

" *However consistent such credulity and boasting, concerning the wonderful, and almost divine virtues and excellencies, of certain specific medicines, may be with the characters of mountebanks, and excusable in the lower class of people, nothing can be more un-*

worthy of a philosopher, a scholar, and above all a physician, if he is an honest and ingenuous man; for he knows very well, or, at least, ought to know, if he would but make use of his own reason, and his own eyes, that there is not, nor ever possibly can be, any certain and infallible remedy, for any disorder, however slight."

Dr. Gregory affirms, that "*no man in his senses, unless he wishes to deceive the world, has ever the assurance to promise, that he will cure the slightest cough, or headach, or toothach, by any medicine whatever; for there is not so great, nor so certain a virtue, in the whole circle of science, and the healing art; much less in any one particular medicine, however extolled.*"

"*One constitution is so different from another, and so different from itself at different times, that it is evident, the best and most efficacious remedies will not always produce the same effects, nor always produce any good effect, but sometimes rather do injury; and that even the efforts of nature, which in general are of so much advantage, are sometimes too great, sometimes too little or none at all, and sometimes so irregular*

as to prove extremely pernicious. Besides, some disorders are in their own nature incurable; so that neither the natural efforts of the body, nor any remedy whatever, can be of the least service."

Before taking leave of the fourth volume of the Journal, it is proper to notice an observation of the late Mr. Lucas, of Leeds, quoted by Mr. Thomas, from which it appears, that men-midwives who only attend in cases of emergency are likely to be worse, if possible, than women. I hope Dr. Kinglake is not one of the number. In the seventh volume of the same work is another horrid case of monstrosity; from which it appears still more and more evident, that the works of nature are not universally perfect, as Dr. Kinglake fondly supposes.

KINGLAKE ON DIGITALIS.

Dr. Kinglake's long, dull, and uninteresting dissertations on digitalis ought not to be passed over in silence. From them, as well as from his other lucubrations, we may learn how to appreciate his talents. From them we may learn, how to estimate his professional knowledge; and what re-

liance is to be placed on the accuracy of his narrations, and the acumen of his judgment.

It appears, both from the statement of Dr. Kinglake himself, and from that of Mr. Bailey, that neither the physicians of our great hospitals, nor Dr. Bree, who has paid particular attention to diseases of the lungs, could ever see the miracles performed by digitalis, which Dr. Kinglake, Dr. Thornton, and other physicians of the school of Darwin and Beddoes, have seen; but *these things*, like the miraculous cures in the gout, *are hidden from the wise and prudent* in medical science, *and revealed unto babes.*

The digitalis seems to be fire stolen from heaven; and to have produced the same effect in the world, as that stolen by Prometheus:

> Post ignem etherea domo
> Subductum, *macies, et nova febrium*
> *Terris incubuit cohors.*

In short, *consumptions* became just as frequent as *coughs* had been before; so that no sooner had a young tyro been dubbed a

doctor, than he had an opportunity of publishing an account of the salutary effects of digitalis, as *recently* proved in *hundreds of cases.*

Dr. Kinglake, with his digitalis, has often made the *purchasers,* as well as the *press,* of the Medical Journal *groan.* Digitalis, in his hands, and as treated by him, is a *bitter* herb, like those of Sardinia, and, like the bitter herbs of Sardinia, *provokes laughter.*

Digitalis in his hands, and as treated by him in his lucubrations, soon excites nausea; and is, in general, soon rejected. No stomach can retain it for a single moment, but one that has been accustomed to coarse and homely fare. Every one, who has the least smattering of medical science, loaths it; and no one can relish or digest it, but those who can relish and digest every sort of *trash.*

In the seventh volume of the Journal, Dr. Kinglake endeavours to prove, that there is no such thing as a *direct sedative*; on the contrary I maintain, that the Doctor's own memoir on that subject is *a direct sedative.*

He seems inclined to rank digitalis among the *narcotic* class; and I am inclined

to rank his memoir on the subject among the same class. I am, indeed, most decidedly of opinion, that if the perusal of any one of his dissertations on this subject does not act as a *narcotic*, and produce *sleep*, nothing can.

CURIOSITIES OF COMMON WATER.

I have now before me the work entitled, "The Curiosities of Common Water; or the Advantages thereof, in preventing and curing many Distempers." This work, which is alluded to in a preceding part of the present publication, and by A Constant Reader in the Medical Journal, is, we are told by the author, John Smith, collected from the writings of several eminent physicians, and also from more than forty years experience. To the name of the author the initials C. M. are subjoined; probably signifying, that the author was *cold-water mad*, like Dr. Kinglake.

The motto prefixed to this publication is,

> That 's the best physic, which doth cure our ills
> Without the charge of Pothecaries' bills.

From this, and other intrinsic evidence,

it appears, that the author was not a medical man.

He stumbles in limine; for he tells us, that water is a drink which is a rule to itself; *and requires little caution in the use of it.* This is similar to what Dr. Kinglake has since told us; and, like Joanna Southcott, he has found many followers, who are so simple as to believe him.

He quotes many physicians, particularly Manwaring, Keill, Sydenham, Prat, Duncan, Floyer, Allen, Gideon Harvey, Sennertus, Joseph Browne, Car, Cheyne, Sigismundius Grasius, Lusitanus, Zechias, Couch, Wainwright, Salmon, Riverius, Primrose, Galen, Oliver, Cook, and Quinton, to prove that water is a cure for the gout, and other disorders. He then tells us, he knew a woman who had a fever; and became *distracted,* though she had the advice of *two doctors.* She was probably distracted *before she consulted them both;* for *two of a trade can never agree.*

The author of the Curiosities ordered the nurse to give her a pint of cold water; which she drank, and in three or four minutes came to her right senses. She then

asked for more cold water; which she drank and recovered.

He then quotes Harris, Mayerne, Van Heydon, Cockburn, Boerhaave, Flamand, Edward Browne, Betts, Blair, Baynard, and Curtis. He tells us, that the last-mentioned physician says, *pains in the joints will be cured, by holding the part under the stream of a pump, or cock;* and that the application of *cold water* is recommended, as good to assuage *hot swellings.*

He also alludes to a book written by the Rev. Dr. Hancock; in which, as well as in Mr. Smith's, and Dr. Kinglake's publications, the virtues of cold water are extolled beyond measure. Sufficient, however, has been extracted from this pamphlet of Mr. Smith, who was not a medical man, to prove that Dr. Kinglake, who is a medical man, either has not read at all, or that he has totally forgotten all he ever read: for otherwise we must suppose, that a physician advances a wilful falsehood; and arrogantly pretends to a discovery which he did not make.

He also refers to Sir Thomas Eliot, and Sir Henry Blount; and declares, that he

himself has received the most essential benefit from cold water, which he drank in a large quantity. He tells us, it has also been of service in the head-ache from hard drinking; which, he observes, proceeds from the same cause as the *gout* does, namely *heat;* as, he says, *all pains* do, except those which are from bruises.

There is a remarkable coincidence between this opinion, and that of Dr. Kinglake. He tells us, that gouty excitement is chiefly cognizable by *heat.* He adds, that the disorder is in proportion to the *heat;* and can only be cured by the abstraction or dissipation of that *heat.*

From the foregoing remarks it must be obvious, that a man who has read so little as Dr. Kinglake, and is so ill-informed, should be cautious how he pretends to be the author of any discoveries, or an improver of the healing art.

DR. TROTTER'S OPINION.

In the Medical Journal for September, 1804, is a letter from Dr. Trotter, formerly Physician to the Fleet; in which he relates the case of an officer in the army; who,

having frequently cured himself of the gout by plunging his foot into cold water, again had recourse to that remedy. The remedy, however, proved worse than the disease. The complaint left his foot; but while he was exulting in his fortunate escape, he was seized with apoplexy, and died in a few hours.

Dr. Trotter believes, and justly believes, that such occurrences are not uncommon in medical practice; for accidental cold, as well as that which is voluntarily applied, every day produces all the evils that are ascribed to Dr. Kinglake's practice; and it would be ridiculous and absurd to suppose, that there could be any difference in the effect of cold, whether applied by accident or design.

Dr. Trotter relates another case of gout; in which he had seen the inflammation of the extremities alternate with fits of epilepsy and hysteria. He had also known this patient suffer the most excruciating tortures in the stomach, bowels, kidneys, ureters, and bladder, when the redness of the joints suddenly disappeared.

MR. MANTAL'S OPINION.

In the same Journal for December, 1804, is a letter from Mr. Mantal, of Bromley High Elms; in which he expresses an opinion, that Dr. Kinglake's theory of the gout is a mere gratuitous assumption; and that no proof is offered by him to establish the position on which his theory rests; namely, that the gout is only a local disease, and affects only the ligaments and tendons.

With regard to Dr. Kinglake's *practice*, Mr. Mantal is inclined to think favourably of it; but differs from him in one respect; thinking some caution necessary in the use of his remedy. He thinks it *rash* in Dr. Kinglake, to challenge the world to produce an instance of *failure, or calamitous issue, from the practice;* and affirms that not one had been produced, or produced only to be refuted.

Unfortunately for Mr. Mantal's argument, his letter is dated Oct. 15th, fifteen days after Dr. Trotter's case had appeared in the very same publication, and *had not been refuted*; *nor has it been refuted to the present hour.* He alludes to Mr. Baker's case; *which has never been refuted.*

He thinks Mr. Baker's case will be found to confirm the necessity of *caution;* and, of course, that Mr. Baker fell a victim to Dr. Kinglake's practice. He thinks Dr. Kinglake *rash* in challenging the world to produce an unfavourable case; and other people are of the same opinion.

The editors of the Journal also allude to a case, in which the practice *proved fatal;* and Mr. Mantal himself records another case, that of the Rev. Mr. Smith, late Rector of Grinstead, near Colchester; whose death was occasioned by using *cold applications for a sprain.* These were supposed to have brought on the gout in the stomach; but, at all events, Mr. Mantal informs us, these cold applications were the cause of his death.

Mr. Moore communicated a case to me, in which cold applications, for a sprain of the ancle, also occasioned the death of a young lady. If these topical and external refrigerants, in some instances prove fatal in habits *not* predisposed to the gout, à fortiori they are likely to prove fatal, in habits which are predisposed to that malady.

Felix quem faciunt aliena pericula cautum.

MR. O'NEAL'S CASE.

In the 13th volume of the Medical Journal is a communication from Mr. O'Neal, a surgeon in the navy. The captain of his ship, sixty years of age, who had been occasionally troubled with the gout ten years, was attacked with sickness of the stomach; and his foot and ancle were considerably swelled and inflamed.

Mr. O'Neal tried Dr. Kinglake's remedy. The captain at first objected to it; but afterwards submitted. His foot and leg were immersed in a pail of sea-water. An alleviation of the pain soon took place; and, on the patient retiring to his cot, the whole limb was wrapped up in compresses, wrung out of cold water.

The patient slept well; but in the morning complained of a coldness in his stomach. All signs of inflammation in the foot and ancle had totally disappeared. The patient wished for a glass of Madeira, or some brandy in his tea; but instead of this, Mr. O'Neal, being determined to give Dr. Kinglake's plan a fair trial, prevailed on him to take a large glass of cold water; and also

applied cloths wrung out of cold water to the region of the stomach.

During the day he complained of no pain; but expressed no inclination for food. He frequently asked for some Madeira, or hot spirits and water; from which, however, though with some difficulty, Mr. O'Neal prevailed on him to abstain.

In the evening he seemed very heavy, and much inclined to sleep; which Mr. O'Neal considered as a favourable symptom; but at two o'clock in the morning, he became *comatose*; and *was affected with a stertorous breathing*. His face appearing *very turgid and red*, Mr. O'Neal took away ten ounces of blood, and applied cold water to the head; but all to no purpose; for at six o'clock he became insensible, and *completely apoplectic*. The temporal artery was opened, but in vain. He expired about ten o'clock.

From this statement it appears, that Mr. O'Neal out-heroded Herod, in his external application of the cool treatment to the region of the stomach; and in insisting on the sedative plan internally, when stimulants were so clearly indicated; and so loudly

called for by the poor unfortunate patient, and by the voice of reason.

Even Dr. Kinglake acknowledges the absurdity of such treatment; and there can be no room to doubt, that it added to the danger of the case. What local, or general evacuations, in the first instance, might have effected, it is now, alas! too late to ascertain; but surely nothing ought to have been done to *repel blood from the extremity*, at that time of life, and increase the determination to the head; and that this really was done, and that such was the consequence, we have Mr. O'Neal's own testimony.

He informs us, that some of the officers had been carping at this new mode of practice; and well they might; he tells us, however, he is determined to follow up the same plan of treatment, till *he* sees *good reasons* for laying it aside.

What *better* reasons he can wish to see, it is hard to divine. It is, however, certain, that a man is generally the last person in the world to see his own faults; and that there are *none so blind as those who will not see.*

MR. EDLIN'S CASES.

In the same volume of the Journal, is a review of "An Account of Two Cases of Gout, which terminated in Death, in consequence of the external Use of Ice and cold Water."

These cases are before alluded to; but as Dr. Kinglake denies that their fatal terminations can fairly be ascribed to his plan of treatment, it becomes necessary to state on what evidence the charge rests.

The first case is that of the late Mr. Baker, a surgeon of Uxbridge; who having a regular fit of the gout in his feet, for the space of four days, applied first cold air, then cold water, and afterwards ice-water; by which the pain and inflammation were manifestly relieved. In five hours the pain was entirely removed. A slight inflammation of the knees succeeded; which was also removed by the ice-water. Four hours afterwards Mr. Edlin was again sent for; and found him *lying on his back*, with a *difficult and hurried respiration. His extremities were cold; his pulse quick, fluttering, and intermittent.*

He complained of *a palpitation of the heart*; and *an icy coldness at the stomach. He vomited several times; and a cold sweat broke out.* Some warm brandy and water was immediately given to him; and a draught with camphor mixture, opiate confection, and æther. Bladders of hot water were applied to the region of the stomach, the knees, hands, and feet.

The draught was repeated with the addition of a scruple of musk. The extremities were fomented; but to no purpose. Three days after the first cold applications, a shivering fit, and an attack of the gout in the stomach, took place; and, after lingering three days longer, he died.

The other case had occurred thirty years before; but the editors are of opinion, that it is well founded; and that the evidence is unimpeachable.

Such is the long and melancholy catalogue of fatal consequences from Dr. Kinglake's rash and inconsiderate plan. It is but lost labour in the editors of the Journal, in Mr. Mantal, and others, to admonish and caution him. He is blind to the defects in his system. He is like the deaf adder, that

stoppeth her ears; and will not hear the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely..

Mr. Baker's case was related to me by Dr. Haworth, on his return from Uxbridge; he having been sent for to attend him; and he did not appear to entertain a doubt of his having fallen a victim to Dr. Kinglake's rash and unwarrantable plan.

Dr. Latham, President of the Royal College of Physicians, and Dr. Baillie, informed me of this case, in a manner which convinces me, that they are of the same opinion with Dr. Haworth, Mr. Edlin, and all other rational, impartial, and unprejudiced persons, on this occasion; and that a worthy member of the medical profession, with a family, whose life, apparently, was in no particular danger, fell a sacrifice to his own temerity, and that of Dr. Kinglake.

Dr. Cooke also, another Fellow of the College, in a letter which I received from him, refers to this unfortunate case. He himself has been too prudent, and too deeply imbued with medical science, to adopt this rash project; but he observes, that, reason-

ing from analogy, he should *conclude* the practice would *prove injurious in the gout.*

In the same volume of the Journal, Mr. Mantal expresses an apprehension, that Mr. Baker had fallen a victim to the rash experiment he made.

In the same publication Messrs. Scott and Taynton describe the case of Mr. Mace, of Chislehurst; who had been subject to severe fits of the gout for many years. He complained of general indisposition; and one ancle was much inflamed, swollen, and exquisitely painful. Cold applications were ordered; and a cordial was given. The next day, the pain and inflammation were diminished; and *the knees were become painful.*

The same applications being made to them, in little more than twenty-four hours *he felt a severe pain in his head; and great uneasiness in the stomach, attended with nausea, and flatulence.* Ether and laudanum were administered; and in a few days he recovered.

A year afterwards he had another attack, which yielded to cold applications; and, after the expiration of a month, a similar one. He again had recourse to his favourite re-

medy; but *had no sooner applied the first wet cloth, than he felt an unusual torpor pervade his whole frame. He suffered intense pain in the stomach, attended with frequent vomiting. His head was much affected; and he was at intervals delirious.*

Hot brandy and water, and heated wine with spice, were given. The cold applications were discontinued. The complaint attacked the hand with uncommon violence. The part was at first kept warm; yet the complaint of the head and stomach did not abate for a day or two. When it did abate, cold applications to his hand soon completed the cure; which may be considered as a lucky escape.

In the 15th volume of the Medical Journal, Mr. Hamlat, of Bromley, expresses his opinion, that it is no wonder Dr. Kinglake should try to identify the small-pox and the cow-pox, when, in Mr. O'Neal's case, he supposes *apoplexy to commence with swelling and inflammation of the great toe.*

In the 18th volume of the Medical Journal, Mr. Pope, of Cleobury, states, that he has had *three instances* of the ill effects of

Dr. Kinglake's cooling treatment of the gout. He relates the particulars of one of them; the only one of which he took notes at the time.

A lady forty-eight years of age, who had occasionally been afflicted with the gout for the last twenty years, sprained her ancle; which occasioned considerable pain and inflammation, both in the ancle and the foot; of which also the great toe participated. A cold saturnine lotion was applied, and the complaint was soon relieved; but this short-lived ease was dearly bought; for, the next morning, Mr. Pope found her labouring under *the most agonizing pain of the stomach, attended with nausea, vertigo, and a very slow pulse.*

Internal and external stimulants were employed, for the space of two days, before the least sign of amendment took place; when the swelling and inflammation re-appeared; and ran through their regular course.

In his address to the late Duke of Portland, Dr. Kinglake talks of his Grace's *intelligent readiness to be convinced, by proper testimony.* As to Dr. Kinglake's own *grace,*

it is neither here nor there. *He has no intelligent readiness to be convinced by any testimony whatever.*

He endeavours to explain away the decisive evidence of that most alarming *ill effect of cold applications in the gout,* which occurred in the case of Mr. Mace; but, as Mr. Mantal observes, it is impossible for any one to doubt, that it was *the consequence* of such applications, and not a mere *coincidence;* for it occurred at the very moment. *Mr. Mace had no sooner applied the first wet cloth, than he felt an unusual torpor pervade his whole frame.*

Dr. Kinglake professes great candour, and pretends that he is open to conviction; yet denies that Mr. Pope's case, or any other that has occurred, has any weight with him; or has, in the least degree, shaken his faith, and his confidence in the perfect safety of the cold treatment.

So inaccurate is Dr. Kinglake, that he represents the cooling treatment to have commenced on the sixth day of the disorder; whereas it was the sixth day of the month. He wonders why Mr. Pope did not again resort to the remedy which had once already

proved advantageous. The reason is obvious. Mr. Pope did not believe it had proved advantageous; on the contrary, he was of opinion, that it had repelled the gout to the stomach.

Dr. Kinglake thinks it strange, that the cooling remedy, which occasioned relief, was not repeated. It was because the remedy was worse than the disease. He thinks it strange, that warm water was used in preference. It was for the same reason; with the hope of re-exciting the gout in the extremity; as the least of evils.

The reader must now be able to comprehend, how far Dr. Kinglake is warrantable in denying, that he has ever known any *well-authenticated instances* of ill effects from his external refrigerant plan. We need not wonder at the influence which he, or any other adventurer, has over the swinish multitude. There is a parallel case in holy writ. *When the Devil entered into a herd of swine,* they all ran down a steep place into the sea, and *perished in the waters.*

In the 19th volume of the Medical Journal, I mentioned one instance of the ill effect

of Dr. Kinglake's plan. Another is related by a correspondent of the Journal, under the signature of Verax; in which, though it was only the first attack, a retrocession of the disorder took place, in consequence of the cold application. A most formidable train of symptoms followed; mortification, and death itself, were menaced; but were happily averted by a total alteration of the plan.

In the 20th volume of the Journal, Dr. Kinglake endeavours to persuade Verax, that his cooling plan is *safe;* though one case in seven, in the practice of Verax, proved it to be *unsafe.* This is one specimen of his logic.

In the 26th volume of the Medical Journal, Mr. Smith, of Bristol, has published some observations on this subject. He is of opinion, that *when the excess of caloric is abstracted, by means of cold applications, the vital powers are increased;* and he lays down a rule for this abstraction; which is, *that it be carried no farther than to remove the sensation of heat, and not to produce the painful sensation of cold.*

This is certainly a judicious rule; but

even with this qualification, the practice is not *safe,* as is evident from the example of Mr. Mace; for *he had no sooner applied the first wet cloth, than he felt an unusual torpor pervade his whole frame.* If, therefore, water is to be applied, in arthritic complaints, it ought to be applied tepid.

Mr. Smith observes, that "although Dr. Kinglake seems to *make light* of any fears which may be entertained, of *repelling the gout to the stomach, or other important organs;* still it must be acknowledged, that *recorded facts strongly countenance the old opinion*; and, *with these facts, any knowledge we have, of the effects which the excessive abstraction of caloric has upon the vital actions, seems to correspond.*"

"I cannot, therefore, but suspect," says Mr. Smith, "that *the metastasis of gout from the extremities to the stomach, brain, or other important organs, in consequence of the injudicious application of cold, is an evil really to be dreaded, and carefully guarded against.*"

Mr. Smith relates the case of a gentleman, who had for several years been in the habit of applying cold water to his joints,

when affected with the gout; and with advantage. Unluckily, however, early one morning, in the height of a paroxysm, he got out of bed; and, in order to procure water sufficiently cold, went to the pump in the garden; and began to pump water on the painful joints, but not with its usual happy effects.

The pain left the limb; but, before he could return into the house, he was seized with a violent pain about the scrobiculus cordis; which arrested him on the spot, and prevented him from calling for assistance. He was, therefore, forced to lie down on the damp ground; and would probably have perished, had not a servant happened to discover him.

He was immediately carried into the house; and, by the assistance of warmth, and cordials plentifully administered, at length recovered; but not without difficulty. From this time the application of cold was totally abandoned.

On former occasions, he had felt the application of cold water rather *agreeable;* but on this occasion it was *painful;* and shot through him *like an ice-bolt.* Mr. Smith,

therefore, advised him to apply it in a more moderate manner, or in a tepid state; and that his own *sensations* might be *the criterion.* With this advice he complied. Laxatives were given to remove constipation. First cold, and afterwards tepid water was applied, as the symptoms seemed to indicate; and he was soon relieved from his complaint.

Such is Mr. Smith's theory of sensation; and it must be allowed to be a rational theory; but Dr. Kinglake's theory excites a very different sensation, a sensation of surprise and astonishment, that any physician, or any man, should ever entertain such a ridiculous and absurd idea, for a single moment.

In the Medical Journal for September, 1815, an article on this subject appears, under the signature of N. W. It is dated Langport, July 18th, 1815. The author of that article is of opinion, that the majority of the medical profession agree with Dr. Kinglake in preferring the cooling treatment of the gout; but *that there is not one of them who does not totally disagree with him, with regard to the extent to which that cool-*

ing treatment ought to be carried. In confirmation of this opinion he adduces the following case.

On the 9th of April, 1814, this practitioner was called to J. C. at a small distance from Langport, a tall, spare, robust man, of temperate habits, about forty years of age. He was delirious. His face and eyes were extremely red. The carotid and temporal arteries throbbed with uncommon violence; and he laboured under all the symptoms of phrenitis in their most aggravated form.

This patient, having a gouty, or rheumatic complaint, in the knee, had been applying cold water to the part affected, by means of compresses; and, about an hour before the arrival of the medical practitioner, he had exclaimed, *I am a dead man: the pain has left my knee, and struck to my head.*

Every appearance of inflammation had vanished from the knee. From eighteen to twenty ounces of blood were immediately drawn from the arm, by a large orifice. Cold water was applied to the head, and a sinapism to each knee. A brisk purge was

given; and a large blister was applied between the shoulders.

The next morning early, no abatement of the complaint having taken place, ten or twelve ounces of blood were drawn from the temporal artery; and it is much to be regretted, that twice or three times as much was not drawn; and that it was not more often repeated. A blister was also applied to the head; but in vain. The patient died in the space of thirty-six hours, after the commencement of the phrenetic attack.

In the same publication for November, Dr. Kinglake alludes to this case; and, as usual, talks about *popular prejudice, unfounded dread,* and *vulgar and unintelligent fears.* This reminds us of the adulation which he paid, and the incense which he offered, to rank, title, and power, in the person of the late Duke of Portland; when he dedicated his book to him, in a fulsome address; and talked of *his Grace's intelligent readiness to be convinced.*

A saint in crape is twice a saint in lawn. Every great man has his flatterers; but as to the public in general, commonly called the swinish multitude, they have no *intelligent*

readiness to be convinced; they have nothing but *popular prejudice,* and *vulgar and unintelligent fears.*

He maintains, that this prejudice, and these fears, have not been *warranted;* nor, as he believes, even *reported,* but on *one* occasion, before the present. It is difficult to conceive, which of the many reports *his intelligent readiness to be convinced* has deigned to single out, as the only one that has ever been propagated against his practice; when it appears from the preceding observations, that he himself has noticed a considerable number both in the Medical Journal and in his Treatise.

The Doctor talks much about the *uninformed public,* of whom he is one; and of the *unthinking part of the public,* of whom also he is one. He also talks about the laws of nature; about life, health, and disease; but he talks like a man who is talking about terra incognita, not like a physiologist, a pathologist, or a physician.

He thinks the opinion of the medical practitioner at Langport *at utter variance with common sense,* and *a solecism in rea-*

soning. He calls it a *knee-vanishing*, and *brain-killing case.* He, however, justly accuses the Langport practitioner of having been too sparing of the lancet; and justly observes, that to have afforded any chance of success, in such an acute case of phrenitis, *bleeding ought to have been carried incomparably farther than in the present instance.*

He tells us, that a suitable diminution of the high tone, and plenitude of health, *has always been considered as an essential auxiliary* to the curative influence of *topical cold*, in obstinate cases of gouty inflammation. This is at direct variance with what he told us before; namely, that topical cold was the one thing needful; and that nothing else, unless, perhaps, the internal use of cold water, is essentially necessary in the treatment of the gout.

One case was communicated to me by Dr. Hooper; in which a gentleman in the neighbourhood of Manchester Square plunged his gouty limb into cold water, by the advice of a medical man; and in five hours he was a corpse.

Having called on Dr. Bain, and asked his opinion concerning the refrigerant plan of Dr. Kinglake, he declared, he thought it rash. A few days afterwards I received from him the following valuable information.

" Dear Sir,

" In reading Dr. Parry's Elements of Pathology and Therapeutics, I met with the following passage, in the 396th page of that work,

" ' In two cases, which occurred between twenty and thirty years ago, immersion of a gouty foot in cold water, which produced instant relief of the pain, and a proportionate abatement of the inflammation, was in a few hours followed by hemiplegia.'

" I remain, dear Sir,

" Very truly yours,

Curzon Street, " A. BAIN."
8th Jan. 1816.

The Medico-Chirurgical Journal for March, 1816, contains a letter from Dr.

Curry, stating, that he has suffered not less than two years of distressing illness, and a corresponding duration of incapacity for every thing that required either bodily or mental exertion, from having taken, though in very moderate quantities, the Eau Medicinale. In the same number of the Journal is a review of Dr. Parry's work; in which he declares, that headache, vertigo, depression of spirits, mania, epilepsy, and apoplexy, have in many instances, either immediately, or in a short time, succeeded the retrocession of the gout.

"Let this," says the learned editor of that respectable publication, "be a caution to Dr. Kinglake; who endeavours to browbeat every proof of the fatal effects of his favourite remedy. Vid. *Med.* and *Phys. Journ.* for November, p. 361."

Retrocession of the gout in a clergyman, says Dr. Parry, was followed by slight hemorrhage from the rectum; which ceasing, fatal epilepsy supervened.

After quoting Dr. Parry's account of ill effects from cold immersion, the editor says, "*Let Dr. Kinglake explain away these*

facts by a quibbling jargon of unintelligible reasoning. We cannot suppress our indignation, when we see human life sported with, to support a theory."

"Dr. Kinglake," says the reviewer, "seems to think, that the generality of practitioners adopt his treatment in the gout. We appeal to the knowledge of every individual of the faculty, whether one in fifty of his acquaintances ever dreams of following Dr. Kinglake's plan."

One final end of the gout, says Dr. Parry may be the evacuation of the habit, and the consequent reduction of plethora; another, the restoration of the due balance of circulation, previously determined in excess towards other parts which are more vital.

"Such," observes the reviewer, "are the pathological views of our author, on the important subject of the gout; and as they are the deductions of experience, in a mind of no ordinary power of discrimination, *they are of more value than all the chaotic speculations on that disease, with which the public have been nauseated,* from *the water-works* at Taunton to the *quackeries* of Montpelier;

all of which have the same *Lethean* tendency, in the opinion of more than ourselves."

In the Medical Journal for Feb. 1816, Dr. Kinglake, thinking he had not yet sufficiently exposed his ignorance on that subject, again brandishes his grey goose quill against men-midwives. He says, "It cannot be denied, that nature's works are sufficient to all their ends." It is difficult to decide, whether such an assertion is more worthy of pity or contempt.

He tells us, that "*medical practitioners in full midwifery employ during upwards of thirty years, have never met with an unfavourable presentation; nor had occasion to use an instrument; but have always found the efforts of nature equal to all the exigencies of salutary parturition.*"

He says, if his information is correct, there is not one practitioner in a thousand who has ever met with an instance of a placenta attached over the os uteri. Hence, he thinks, an occurrence of such a case can never justly be urged, as a leading argument in favour of the general practice of midwifery by medical men.

On the contrary, he is of opinion, that

even in such cases, medical men might be called in soon enough to prevent the ill consequences that might otherwise ensue. He also thinks it is not clear, that such cases, if left to nature, would prove fatal.

I refer such of my readers as are not sensible of the folly and absurdity of these sentiments, to any publication on the subject of midwifery; particularly to A Synopsis of the various Kinds of difficult Parturition, by Dr. Samuel Merriman; from which it will appear, that a man-midwife in full practice thirty years, instead of not meeting with one unfavourable case, must in general meet with a hundred.

The author of these observations has met with at least that number, many of them certainly occasioned by the unseasonable and unskilful interference of midwives nearly or totally destitute of all education; who have mistaken a hand for a foot, and the nates, or even the uterus itself, for a head. The consequence of this, as well as of their neglect to call in further assistance in cases of hemorrhage, or wrong presentations, has in many instances been, that the

mother or child, or both, have fallen victims to their malpractice.

It is unnecessary to bring any farther proofs of Dr. Kinglake's temerity. Every page of his writings, and almost every line teems with it. The public will now be able to appreciate his plan of treating the gout; and be rather more cautious how they trust to his dogmatic assertions.

His allegation that mischief has resulted from the general employment of surgeons in midwifery, is so false and fool-hardy as scarcely to deserve an answer. For the sake, however, of such as are as ignorant as himself, if such there be, I shall here subjoin a table from Dr. Samuel Merriman's publication; showing that the fatality of parturition is diminished more than two thirds, since that branch of the healing art has fallen to the lot of medical men.

"*Table of the average Number of Deaths in Child-bed in London,* taken from the Bills of Mortality.

For	4 years ending in	1660	1 in	36
	10 ———	1670	—	39
	10 ———	1680	—	49

For 10 years ending in		1690	1 in	47
10	———	1700	—	65
10	———	1710	—	67
10	———	1720	—	72
10	———	1730	—	73
10	———	1740	—	70
10	———	1750	—	74
10	———	1760	—	81
10	———	1770	—	72
10	———	1780	—	92
10	———	1790	—	107
10	———	1800	—	113
10	———	1810	—	106
3	———	1813	—	116"

If this statement of the rapid improvement which has taken place in the practice of midwifery, in proportion as it has fallen into the hands of medical men, should not convince Dr. Kinglake of his error, nothing can. I will not say, with the poet,

Nam longe præstat in arte,
Et sollertius est multo genus omne virile;

but this I will say, that there are many circumstances which peculiarly disqualify the female sex for this branch of the medical profession.

Midwifery, to the honour of the present enlightened age be it spoken, is now considered, as it ought to be, the most important branch of the healing art; and is practised by some of the most able physicians and surgeons; who have advanced it to a degree of perfection, of which our ancestors had not the least idea.

> Usus, et impigræ simul experientia mentis
> Paulatim docuit pedetentim progredientes.
> Sic unumquicquid paulatim protrahit ætas
> In medium, ratioque in luminis eruit oras.
> Namque alid ex alio clarescere corde videmus
> Artibus, ad summum donec venere cacumen.

In the Medical Journal for March, 1816, Dr. S. Merriman observes, that Dr. Kinglake writes on a subject, with which he is very little acquainted. He also observes, that, in addition to what has been written on the topic by other authors, Rigby relates a hundred and six cases of floodings; of which forty-three were cases of attachment of the placenta over the os uteri.

Dr. S. Merriman himself has met with eight cases of the latter kind; and been called into consultation, by other practitioners, at least thirteen times, within the

last sixteen years. He asks, how do these facts agree with Dr. Kinglake's surmise, that not more than one practitioner in a thousand has ever met with this occurrence?

But, he observes, Dr. Kinglake goes on to say, "it is not clear that a placental presentation, unrelieved, and unperforated for the manual delivery of the fetus, would terminate in death." It may not be clear, says Dr. Merriman, to those who have paid but little attention to the subject; just as many other occurrences in physic are not clear to the illiterate observer, which are nevertheless perfectly known to the well-educated physician and surgeon.

It is because it is not clear, adds he, to the inattentive accoucheur, or midwife, that so many women have lost their lives by this dreadful accident; but it was clear enough to Ambrose Paré, to Guillemeau, to Mauriceau, to Puzos, to Roederer, to Gifford, to Hunter, to Denman, to Osborne, to Clarke, to Hamilton, and to all the great masters of the obstetric art; who have, therefore, strenuously inculcated the important truth, that, in order to preserve the life of the mother, it is necessary to

turn the child, and deliver her before her strength is too much exhausted.

Dr. Denman says decidedly, "this is no longer a matter of particular opinion, on the propriety of which we may think ourselves at liberty to debate. It has, for nearly two centuries, met with the consent and approbation of *every practitioner of judgment and reputation*, in this and many other countries."

Dr. S. Merriman justly remarks, that Dr. Kinglake's inquiries on this subject have not been very extensive; and that it is easy to refute his slander. He observes, that under the management of midwives, difficult and dangerous labours are by no means uncommon; that every writer on the subject, from Hippocrates to the present day, concurs in this opinion; and that the necessity of surgical assistance is therefore evident.

He maintains, that the necessity of an order of professional men, who devote their particular attention to this practice, is equally evident, when we see the total want of skill and judgment, in such cases, in many physicians and surgeons, especially in Dr.

Kinglake. He advises the Doctor to go to school once more; and to read old Guillemeau.

He also very judiciously observes, that unless a practitioner be very conversant with the whole process of natural labour, and labours unattended with danger, it is impossible he can be qualified to give his assistance in difficult cases. Hence it is necessary to have a class of men properly educated for the practice of midwifery; and in the constant exercise of that branch of the medical profession.

Mr. Cordell informs me, that about eight years ago, Dr. James Sims, then president of the London Medical Society, related a case at the meeting of the Society in Bolt Court, in which a gentleman, who had plunged his foot into cold water in order to cure the gout, died the next morning. Dr. Sims himself has no recollection of the case; which is no great wonder, for it was no uncommon occurrence. He is now retired to Bath; and, in answer to a letter which I wrote to him on this subject, favoured me with the following valuable communication, which, as he observes, furnishes additional

proof of the danger of suddenly repelling the gout.

Mr. W. C. a member of the House of Commons, had been severely afflicted with pains in the bowels, more than two years; which had apparently brought him to the brink of the grave. Dr. Sims, being consulted, gave it as his opinion, that the disorder was misplaced gout; and recommended that he should go to Bath, and use the waters there.

This advice not coinciding with the opinions of other physicians, whom the patient consulted, the remedy was long delayed; but was afterwards carried into effect; and, in consequence of the external and internal use of the waters, he had a regular fit of the gout; which, in a short time, restored him to health, flesh, strength, and spirits.

In about two years after this, Dr. Sims met him in Piccadilly, in a cold frosty morning, walking very fast; and asking him the reason of it, he answered, that he was walking off a fit of the gout, a practice then much in vogue, in order that he might be able to attend his duty in Parliament that evening.

Against this imprudent act Dr. Sims earnestly remonstrated; but he replied, that he would on no account absent himself; as a question was to come on, in which the Queen was much interested. The result was, that he persevered in his own plan; walked off the fit, attended in the House of Commons; and on the next day the complaint resumed its old situation in the bowels. He then went to Bath, thinking it would have the same effect as before; but finding it would not succeed, he was advised to try the air of Lisbon; and died just as the ship was entering the Tagus.

Having been informed by Mr. Cordell, surgeon, that the late Mr. Nicholson, the lottery-office keeper, in Cornhill, had suffered injury from Dr. Kinglake's plan, I have made inquiries into the particulars of his case; and am informed by Mr. Hornsby, a gentleman in the same line of business, also residing in Cornhill, that Mr. Nicholson, having had recourse to Dr. Kinglake's refrigerant plan of treatment for the gout, both externally and internally, was enabled to pursue his professional employment as a

stock-broker and lottery-office keeper, for some time.

The consequence, however, was, that the remedy was worse than the disease; for the repelled gout was followed by an erysipelas; which occasioned such an intolerable itching, as allowed him no rest day or night. At length, some person at the Stock Exchange pricked his hand, or wrist, with a pen, by way of a jest; but it proved a serious thing to him; for, in consequence of his predisposition to erysipelatous inflammation, that disease took place in the puncture, and spread over his whole arm to his shoulder. Mortification of the part, and death, closed the scene.

One case has just been communicated to me, in conversation, by Sir William Adams. A patient of his, while travelling in Germany, was attacked with the gout. Cold affusions were ordered; by which it was repelled; and settled on the hip-joint. He was lame two years; during which he was confined to a couch; and unable to walk without a crutch. He was, at length, cured by the use of Bath waters.

Other cases, tending to discredit Dr. Kinglake's system, have been communicated to the author of these observations; which he has not had time to investigate. Sufficient, however, are here detailed, to deter any prudent man from adopting that system.

THE END.

Printed by S. Gosnell, Little Queen Street, London.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

A TREATISE on the GOUT; containing the Opinions of the most celebrated ancient and modern Physicians on that Disease; and Observations on the Eau Medicinale. 8vo. Boards, Price 6*s*.

A TREATISE on the COW POX; containing the History of Vaccine Inoculation, and an Account of the various Publications which have appeared on that Subject, in Great Britain and other Parts of the World; in Two Volumes, 8vo. with Plates, representing the whole Progress of the Vaccine Vesicle. Price 1*l*. 1*s*. Boards.

A TRANSLATION of ANSTEY's ODE to JENNER, with Two Tables; one showing the Advantages of Vaccine Inoculation; the other containing Instructions for the Practice. Sewed, 1*s*. 6*d*. 4to.

The BEAUTIES of the EDINBURGH REVIEW; alias The STINKPOT of LITERATURE. 8vo. Price 2*s*. 6*d*.

An ANSWER to Mr. GOLDSON, containing a Defence of Vaccination. Price 1*s*. 6*d*.

An ANSWER to Dr. MOSELEY, containing a Defence of Vaccination. 8vo. Boards, Price 6*s*.

An ANSWER to Mr. BIRCH, containing a Defence of Vaccination. 8vo. Price 2*s*. 6*d*.

A ROWLAND for an OLIVER, in answer to Dr. Moseley's Oliver for a Rowland, and to Mr. Birch; containing a Defence of Vaccination. 8vo. Boards, Price 4*s*.